# THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO

# LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIMES

By Al Blythe

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by
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This book is dedicated to my son-in-law, Rod Askew, who long ago got me interested in collecting coins.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of dealers and collectors provided me with coins for study, many of them varieties not listed in any numismatic references. Credit is given to each of these contributors as the coins appear in this book. Their support and generosity is most appreciated. Special recognition and thanks for their expertise and insight goes to Jack Beymer, Larry Briggs, Bill Fivaz and Jim O'Donnell. James Wilbur provided historical information.

Tom Mulvaney took most of the photographs in the book. Several micro photographs of varieties were provided by Bill Fivaz, Ken Hill and Chris Pilliod, Liberty Seated Collectors Club members. Pictures of the 1859 Transitional pattern and the 1870-S Half Dimes were provided by Bowers and Merena.

Special thanks is given to John McCloskey, LSCC president for his constructive comments throughout this undertaking.

The initial input of this book into a home-based personal computer was done by my wife, Ginger, who persevered through many re-writings and, in the process, deciphered my handwriting. To her, my love and personal thanks.

# FOREWORD

The Liberty Seated Half Dime series ran from 1837 to 1873. Since then, no silver nickels have been minted, aside from the 35% silver Jefferson Nickels during World War II.

A complete date run of the series, including the 1859 and 1860 fantasy pieces, and the famous and extremely rare 1870-S, totals 83 coins. However, depending on the varieties one wishes to collect, this number can significantly increase. Assembling a complete set, with the exception of the 1870-S and, perhaps, the 1859 fantasy piece, can be a major challenge, especially in high grades. Yet it is an attainable goal, over time, through diligent and patient searching.

W. W. Neil wrote "The United States Half Dimes From 1829 Through 1873," and "Addenda to List of United States Half Dimes" Both appeared in The Numismatist. Daniel W. Valentine's "United States Half Dimes" was published in 1931 as Numismatic Notes and Monographs No. 48 by the American Numismatic Society.

In this book I have used only Valentine varieties, with "Valentine numbers" for some new varieties discovered since his research. W. W. Neil's earlier efforts with the half dime series are certainly recognized as important, but to use both Valentine (V) and Neil (N) numbers would be confusing.

For interested collectors, the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, formed in 1973, currently has over 700 members and is dedicated to the encouragement, promotion and dispensing of numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated coins. Readers who may be interested in further information or becoming a member of the Society can contact the author at the address below.

The Liberty Seated Half Dime series is rich in varieties, overdates, repunched dates and blundered dies. This provides a fertile ground for collectors who enjoy this facet of numismatics. Even today, new varieties are being discovered, and I am sure there are many yet to be found. It would be impossible, at this juncture, to include all of the known varieties in this undertaking but, hopefully, this book will provide the impetus and encouragement for others to pursue this fascinating effort.

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Chapter 1

# History of the Series & Major Design Changes

# HISTORY OF THE SERIES

Kneass sketch based on Patterson's conception.

Sketch by artist Thomas Sully

It was the image of Britannia – goddesslike, imperious yet feminine – that inspired the design of the Liberty Seated series. In 1835, newly named Mint Director Robert M. Patterson ordered new designs for all U.S. coins to replace the Capped Bust series in use since 1829. Chief Engraver William Kneass began the project. When he suffered a stroke, Christian Gobrecht took over, using sketches by Kneass and artists Thomas Sully and Titian Peale.

Under Patterson's directions, all of the designs show variations of Britannia, symbol of England found on British copper coins at that time. Like Britannia, Liberty holds a shield in one hand. But where Britannia holds a trident, Liberty has a staff topped by a freedom cap. On the reverse the denomination is spelled out and surrounded by a thin wreath.

Not counting the Gobrecht Dollars of 1836, which are considered patterns, the Liberty Seated series began in 1837 with the minting of Half Dimes and Dimes. Seated Quarters started in 1838, Half Dollars in 1839 and finally Dollars in 1840. Unlike more modern coinage, a number of designers contributed to the Half Dime series: Gobrecht and Sully for the 1837-1838 period, Gobrecht's with-stars obverse for 1838-1840, Robert Ball Hughes and Gobrecht for 1840-1853 with drapery added, Anthony Paquet's modified design for 1859-1860 and James Barton Longacre's design for 1860-1873.

Gobrecht and Longacre had the most significant design roles. Gobrecht was considered to be an "Engraver, Inventor and Mechanic all rolled into one." Born December 23, 1785, in Hanover, Pa., the sixth son of a German immigrant, Christian Gobrecht was 26 when he went to Philadelphia, where he worked as an engraver of bank notes and book binders' dies and, in 1817, invented a medal-engraving machine. Early attempts by Gobrecht to secure a mint engravers job were frustrated. He had originally written to President James Monroe and heard nothing; a second request was also denied. On January 12, 1826, the president reconsidered and offered him an appointment, but this time Gobrecht refused because of the low salary. Gobrecht finally joined

the mint staff as an assistant engraver in 1835. Gobrecht was appointed chief engraver of the mint on December 21, 1840, remaining in that capacity until his death on July 23, 1844, at the age of 69.

James Barton Longacre, a well-known Philadelphia portrait engraver, secured an appointment to the mint on September 16, 1844, through Sen. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, thus circumventing Mint Director Patterson, who had complained of Longacre's "want of skill in die making." As Patterson wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury:

> "...Mr. Longacre is a gentleman of excellent character, highly regarded in the community, and has acquired some celebrity as an engraver of copper but he is not a Die-Sinker. Indeed I do not know that he has ever made an attempt in this art. For the mere routine work of the mint, however, it is not required..."

Longacre's incompetence as a die sinker was to manifest itself on many occasions. The decade of the 1840's proved to be one of recut dates (RCD's), overdates and blunders. At the time of this series, dates and mintmarks were punched only into the working dies as they would otherwise restrict the use of the hub. In 1840, compound punches with the first two numbers of the date were used in dies of larger cents and Half Dollars, and three-figure punches were used for those of smaller coins like the half dimes. That a four- figure punch was used on at least one denomination prior to 1860 is proven by the 1858 Over Inverted 1858 Half Dime. The reworking of dates continued into the 1860's. Half Dime varieties are discussed in detail in Chapter 4.

But if Longacre lacked skill as a die sinker, he deserves credit as a designer. Shortly after his death in 1869, a number of patterns were prepared from Longacre's designs by William Barber. "They are among the most beautiful assays in our numismatic series," writes numismatist Don Taxay in "The U.S. Mint and Coinage." Today Longacre is best known for his design of the Indian Cent.

This brief history of the Liberty Seated series would be incomplete without mentioning the famous 1870-S Half Dime, with only one known specimen that was found in a dealer's junk box.

Half Dimes were minted until 1873 when the Mint Act of February 12, 1873, discontinued them as well as the two cent piece and three cent silver.

*A more detailed history of seated coinage can be found in Taxay's book and in Breen's "The Secret History of the Gobrecht Coinage, 1836-1840," The Coin Collector's Journal, Sept - Dec 1954

## MAJOR DESIGN CHANGES

Minting of the Liberty Seated Half Dime began in 1837 with the "No Stars" design. Thomas Sully designed the obverse and Christian Gobrecht the reverse. The No Stars design was used in 1837 and 1838. For the period 1838-1840, Christian Gobrecht was responsible for the obverse and reverse. Thirteen stars were punched by hand into each die for this design. From 1840-1853 the obverse design was modified by Robert Ball Hughes to add drapery to Liberty's arm, which was also fattened. Other changes included enlarging Liberty's head, flattening her breasts, reducing the size of the rock upon which she sits, placing the shield in an upright position and adding a pendant (bulla) on the lower edge of her gown.

From 1853 to 1855, arrows were added to the obverse. Mint Director George N. Eckert ordered these to be placed at each side of the date to signify the reduction of the coin's silver content (to make melting unprofitable). The arrows were removed in 1856 with the new weight unchanged.

In 1859 and for Philadelphia Mint Half Dimes only, a new obverse hub was prepared by Anthony Paquet. It had stars with hollow centers, reduced Liberty's arm and cap size, and increased her head size. Other changes included altered drapery folds, profile and hair-do. The same new hub also was used on the 1859 and 1860 fantasy coins, neither of which bears the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The final design change, by Thomas Longacre, took place in 1860. Stars were removed and replaced by the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the obverse. On the reverse, the legend was replaced with a much larger "wreath of cereals" (maple, wheat, corn and oak) and a reduced size HALF DIME.

Obverse

**Sully-Gobrecht Seated Design No Stars 1837-1838**

Reverse

Obverse

**Gobrecht's Design with Stars 1838-1840**

Reverse

Obverse

Hughes-Gobrecht
Design
Extra Drapery
1840-1853

Reverse

Obverse

Arrows Added
at Date
1853-1855

(Arrows Omitted)
1856-1859

Reverse

Obverse

Paquet's Modified
Design
1859-1860

Reverse

Obverse

Longacre's Cereal
Wreath Design
1860-1873

Reverse

# EXPERIMENTAL, RESTRIKE & REGULAR DIE TRIAL PIECES

As early as 1854, an experimental piece was struck using regular dies of the Half Dime. Designated as Judd 166, it was struck on German silver with a plain rather than reeded edge, and is considered rare (R7). All of these experimental pieces, according to Judd, were struck off center, and were made to show how easily Argentan, one of the German silver alloys proposed for cents, could be confused with silver.

Trial pieces are pieces in a metal other than that on which the regular issue is struck, and are known as Off-Metal Strikings (OMS). Typically, these trial pieces for Half Dimes between 1863 and 1873 were struck from regular dies in copper, nickel and aluminum and, as Walter Breen points out, are more accurately described as Pieces de Caprice.

The photograph below is of Judd 378, copper with a reeded edge. The coin resides in the National Collection at the Smithsonian Institution and is believed to be a restrike from a worn die in which the top of the D in UNITED is open. The date slants grotesquely uphill. Restrikes dated 1863 and 1864 were struck about 1870 or 1871. The reverse is that of an 1870 Proof.

**Obverse**

**Reverse**

**Judd 378.**
**1864 Restrike (Copper)**
(Photo courtesy Smithsonian Institution)

For those collectors who are interested in pursuing the subject of experimental, trial pieces and patterns, Judd's book (seventh edition by A. Kosoff) on the subject is a must. For specific Judd numbers associated with Half Dimes through 1873, see Appendix D.

# Chapter 2

# Grading

# GRADING

Seated Half Dimes, in spite of their small size, are relatively easy to grade, but like many United States coins, the strike must be taken into consideration. Coins from the Philadelphia Mint between 1856 and 1858 are usually weak at central drapery and head. New Orleans Mint dates between 1840 and 1857 rarely show a full head and often are weakly struck. The 1853-0 No Arrows with a very weak date is an example. Another is the 1838-0 V-2 with its rusted dies. In cases such as these, other details and characteristics must be carefully examined to determine the grade. Also, some O-mint coins may show nearly a full grade difference from obverse to reverse.

Coins wear continuously, not in discrete steps, and the different standard grades represent levels in the process. It is not surprising that coins often fall between grades, and so-called "split grades" have come into use in today's numismatic marketplace.

## 1837-1859

### AG 3 (ABOUT GOOD)

**Obverse:** Liberty has a distinct outline, but lacks detail. Some of the date is readable. Rims smooth with stars merging into rim; absence of dentils.
**Reverse:** Much of legend worn away, as is wreath. Half Dime indistinct but readable.

### G 4 (GOOD)

**Obverse:** Liberty's outline is distinct. Date weak but readable. Partial rims and dentils.
**Reverse:** Features in the wreath are flat, but its outline is complete. Parts of legend merge into rim.

## VG 8 (VERY GOOD)

**Obverse:** At least three letters of LIBERTY in shield are readable, but shield is weak. Much of Liberty's detail is flat. Rim and stars have some definition.
**Reverse:** All of the letters in legend are distinct as is HALF DIME. Wreath is boldly outlined. Bow is weak.

## F 12 (FINE)

**Obverse:** All the letters of LIBERTY within the shield are visible but weak. Some detail shows at shoulder, breast and cap.
**Reverse:** Legend letters are distinct but worn. Bow is flat, but clearly outlined. Some detail in wreath's leaves.

## VF 20 (VERY FINE)

**Obverse:** All letters in LIBERTY are distinct. Much of the detail in Liberty's gown is visible. Her hair shows wear but is prominent. Liberty's right leg is fairly flat.
**Reverse:** Detail in the wreath's leaves, while not full, is clear. Ribbons of the bow show wear, but are distinct.

## VF 30 (VERY FINE/EXTRA FINE)

**Obverse:** Wear shows on the head, shoulder, breast, knee, and toe. Head is weak with some detail discernible. Shield with LIBERTY and scroll are complete, but not sharp. Liberty's right leg is slightly rounded.
**Reverse:** Wear spots show on wreath's leaves, but most of the detail is complete. Ribbon bow is well defined.

## EF 40 (EXTRA FINE)

**Obverse:** The word LIBERTY in the shield and the scroll's upper and lower bounds are sharp. Some wear will be evident on high points of head, shoulder, knees, breast and toe. Also at neckline. Liberty's right leg is rounded, except for some New Orleans' coins and others which are weakly struck.
**Reverse:** Some wear on highest parts of the wreath and bow.

## EF 45 (EXTRA FINE/ ABOUT UNCIRCULATED)

**Obverse:** LIBERTY is sharply defined as are the scroll edges. Minor wear shows at Liberty's shoulder and bust. Also minor wear on hair and knees.Some mint luster may be evident in protected areas of the coin. Most details of design are rounded.
**Reverse:** Veins in leaves within wreath have clear definition. Highest parts of wreath and bow are slightly worn. More mint luster may be present.

## AU 50 (ABOUT UNCIRCULATED)

Surface is very important in this grade. Both sides should have mint luster unless the coin is dark or has been cleaned.
**Obverse:** All details are complete with only slight signs of rub on head, right shoulder, hairline and knees.
**Reverse:** All details are virtually complete.

## AU 55 (CHOICE ABOUT UNCIRCULATED, SLIDER)

On both the obverse and reverse, the coin is very close to mint state. Only the very slightest signs of wear will be detectable, and the coin will have good mint luster.
**Obverse:** Only slight rub is visible on knees and bust.
**Reverse:** Slight rub shows on Ribbon Bow.
NOTE: Philadelphia mint coins are usually weak at the head and central drapery. Coins dated 1840-1857 from the New Orleans Mint are often weakly struck and usually do not show a full head.

## MS 60-70 (MINT STATE)

These coins have not been in circulation, but may have picked up marks from mishandling, stacking or album page slides. Half Dimes are very light and bag marks are virtually non-existent when compared with coins of larger mass. Dipped coins may qualify as being Mint State, but not those which have been mechanically cleaned. Surfaces of the latter have been impaired and signs of wear may have been obliterated. Toning subdues luster and can hide friction. Such coins are often difficult to grade and sometimes even fool professionals. It is highly recommended that third party grading services be used for coins grading MS-63 and higher, and for lower grade circulated coins when there is a large price differential between grades.
**Obverse:** High points of coin may show light lines or marks. The field may have "hits" or scratches, but light lines in these areas are usually a sign of circulation and/or cleaning. Luster should be uniform and unbroken throughout the fields and devices.
**Reverse:** There must be no sign of circulation.

# 1860-1873

The design of the Half Dime for this period notably changed to include on the obverse, Ms. Liberty in lower relief and the legend "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" replacing the 13 stars on earlier dates. On the reverse, a much larger wreath, described as Newlin's "wreath of cereals," replaced the statutory legend. Also, coins of this particular design may be weakly struck, especially in the horizontal lines of the shield and at the top of the wreath.

## AG 3 (ABOUT GOOD)

**Obverse:** Liberty has a distinct outline, but lacks detail. Some of the date is readable. Rims smooth with legend merging into rim, absence of dentils.
**Reverse:** Much of the design is worn away with wreath merging into rims. HALF DIME indistinct, but readable. Mintmark (where it applies) weak, but readable.

## G 4 (GOOD)

**Obverse:** Liberty's outline is distinct. Partial date weak but readable. LIBERTY in the shield not readable. Legend and rims are distinct, but worn down at some places.
**Reverse:** Distinct flatness of the wreath, but outline is complete.

## VG 8 (VERY GOOD)

**Obverse:** At least three letters of LIBERTY in shield are readable. Shield is weakly defined. Much of Liberty's detail is flat including gown, knee and legs. Entire rim is defined. All letters of legend are defined, but weak. **Reverse:** Some detail shows in wreath. There is flatness on high points namely the bow, corn and grain.

## F 12 (FINE)

**Obverse:** All letters of LIBERTY within the shield are visible, but weak. Partial detail shows at Liberty's shoulder, breast and cap. The clasp holding her gown is worn down.
**Reverse:** More detail now shows at the high points of wreath, namely, the corn and leaves.

## VF 20 (VERY FINE)

**Obverse:** All letters of LIBERTY within the shield are readable. Much of the detail in Liberty's gown is visible. Her hair shows wear, but is prominent. Cap details are visible. Liberty's right leg is fairly flat.
**Reverse:** Detail in the wreath's leaves, while not full, is clear. Ribbons of the bow show wear, but are distinct. Upper portion of wreath (stalks) and lower leaves show wear.

## VF 30 (VERY FINE/EXTRA FINE)

**Obverse:** Wear shows on the head, shoulder, breast, knee, legs and toe. Shield with LIBERTY and the scroll are complete, but not sharp. Liberty's right leg is slightly rounded.
**Reverse:** Wear spots show on wreath's bottom leaves, but most of the detail is complete. The bow of the ribbon is well defined.

## EF 40 (EXTRA FINE)

**Obverse:** The word LIBERTY in the shield and the scroll's upper and lower bounds are sharp. Some wear will be evident on high points of head, shoulder, breast, knees and toe. Also at neckline. Liberty's right leg is rounded unless weakly struck.
**Reverse:** Some wear on highest parts of the wreath and bow.

## EF 45 (EXTRA FINE/ ABOUT UNCIRCULATED)

**Obverse:** LIBERTY in shield is sharply defined as are scroll edges. Light wear is evident at high points of hairline and knees. Wear is evident at shoulder and breast. Most details of design are rounded. Some luster may be evident in protected areas.
**Reverse:** Veins in leaves within wreath are clearly defined. Highest parts of wreath and the bow are slightly worn.

## AU 50 (ABOUT UNCIRCULATED)

Surface is very important in this grade. Both sides should have mint luster unless the coin is dark or has been cleaned.
**Obverse:** All details are complete with only slight signs of rub on head, right shoulder, hairline and knees.
**Reverse:** All details are virtually complete with only traces of wear at ribbon bow and tips of leaves.

## AU 55 (CHOICE ABOUT UNCIRCULATED, SLIDER)

On both the obverse and reverse, the coin is very close to Mint State. Only the very slightest signs of wear will be detectable, and the coin will have good mint luster.
**Obverse:** Only slight rub is visible on knees and bust.
**Reverse:** Slight rub on ribbon bow.

## MS 60-70 (MINT STATE)

MS60-70 (Mint State) See the description of these grades outlined on page 14.

Chapter 3

# Estimating Scarcity

## ESTIMATING SCARCITY

As coin collectors who are deeply involved in our numismatic hobby know, scarcity is not always consistent with original mintage figures. Over time, some dates are lost, melted or saved more than others.

A date's relative scarcity is indicated by its "Rarity Rating," which varies from R1 to R8. Factors considered in estimating scarcity are the original mintage, current populations of certified coins (PCGS, NGC & ANACS), historical value, the number of times the date appears on dealer "want lists" and in auctions, and the results of several surveys conducted by the Liberty Seated Collectors' Club (LSCC).

The RARITY RATINGS are defined as follows:

**R1** – Common.

**R2** – A better date. Available at most shows, but in limited quantity.

**R3** – A tough date. Only a few likely to be found at larger shows.

**R4** – Scarce. May or may not be available at larger shows.

**R5** – Very Scarce. Only a few will appear at large shows or auctions in a year's time.

**R6** – Extremely Scarce. Rarely available.

**R7** – Rare. Only a few exist.

**R8** – Unique or almost so.

### GRADES G-VG

**R6:**
1839-O Large O, Reverse of 38-O
1840-O No Drapery, Small O, V-6 Transitional

**R5:**
1838-O No Stars, V-1 and V-2
1840-O No Drapery, Large O,
1840-O No Drapery, Medium O,
1840-O No Drapery, Small O, V-3 to V-4a
1840-O Drapery, Small O,
1842-O
1846
1847/18
1848/8/7
1848-O Small O
1853-O No Arrows
1853-O Arrows (N-6)
1858 Double Date
1862 Double Date
1865

**R4:**
1841-O
1844
1844 Repunched Date, V-3b and V-3c
1844-O, Large O
1848 Large Date
1848/48
1848/7/6
1849-O
1858 Inverted Date
1862 Uphill Date
1864
1865-S Repunched Date
1866
1867
1872Double Date Obverse
1872-s Triple Date

## GRADES G-VG (continued)

**R3:**
1838 Small Stars
1841
1842
1844 Repunched Date
1844-O, Small O
1847
1848-O Large O
1848-O Medium O
1849/8
1850 V-1 and V-4
1850-O
1851
1852-O
1853-O Arrows
1854-O Arrows
1855-O Arrows
1856-O
1858 Short Pole
1858 Repunched Date
1859 Repunched Date
1861/0
1863
1863-S
1864-S
1865-S
1866-S
1867-S
1868
1869-S

**R2:**
1839 No Drapery
1840 No Drapery
1840 Drapery
1843
1843 Double Date
1845
1845/1845
1848 Medium Date
1849
1849/6
1850
1851-O
1852
1853 No Arrows
1857-O
1858-O
1859-O
1860 V-3a, b, c
1868-S
1869
1871-S

**R1:** All the rest.

## GRADES F-VF

**R6:**
1839-O Large O, Reverse of 38-O
1840-O Small O, V-6 Transitional

**R5:**
1838-O No Stars, V-1 and V-2
1840-O No Drapery, Large O
1840-O No Drapery, Medium O
1840-O No Drapery, Small O, V-3 through V-4a
1840-O Drapery, Small O
1842-O
1846
1847/18
1848/8/7
1848-O Small O
1853-O No Arrows
1853-O Arrows, N-6
1858 Double Date
1862 Double Date
1865

## GRADES F-VF (continued)

**R4:**
1841-O
1844
1844 Repunched Date, V-3b and V-3c
1844-O Large O
1848 Large Date
1848/48
1848/7/6
1849-O
1858 Inverted Date
1862 Uphill Date
1864
1865-S Repunched Date
1866
1867
1872 Double Date Obverse
1872-S Triple Date

**R3:**
1838 Small Stars
1841
1842
1844 Repunched Date
1844-O Small O
1847
1848-O Large O
1848-O Medium O
1849/8
1850, V-1 and V-4
1850-O
1851
1852-O
1853-O Arrows
1854-O Arrows
1855-O Arrows
1856-O
1858 Short Pole
1858 Repunched Date
1859 Repunched Date
1861/0
1863
1863-S
1864-S
1865-S
1866-S
1867-S
1868
1869-S

**R2:**
1839 No Drapery
1840 No Drapery
1840 Drapery
1843
1843 Double Date
1845
1845/1845
1848 Medium Date
1849
1849/6
1850
1851-O
1852
1853 No Arrows
1857-O
1858-O
1859-O
1860 V-3a,b,c
1868-S
1869
1871-S

**R1:** All the rest

## GRADES EF-AU

**R7:**
1838-O No Stars, V-2
1839-O Large O, Reverse of 38-O

**R6:**
1838-O No Stars, V-1
1840-O No Drapery, Medium O
1840-O No Drapery, Small O, V-6 Transitional
1840-O Drapery, Small O
1842-O
1846
1848-O Small O
1853-O No Arrows

## GRADES EF-AU (continued)

**R5:**
1840-O No Drapery, Large O
1840-O No Drapery, Small O, V-3 through V-4a
1844-O Large O
1847/18
1848 Large Date
1848/48
1848/8/7
1848/7/6
1849-O
1852-O
1853-O Arrows, N-6
1858 Double Date
1862 Double Date
1865
1865-S Repunched Date

**R4:**
1841-O
1844
1844 Repunched Date, V-3b and V-3c
1844-O Small O
1858 Inverted Date
1862 Uphill Date
1864
1864-S
1865-S
1866
1866-S
1867
1867-S
1869-S
1872 Double Date Obverse
1872-S Triple Date

**R3:**
1838 Small Stars
1841
1842
1844 Repunched Date
1847
1848-O Large O
1848-O Medium O
1849/8
1849/6
1850, V-1 and V-4
1850-O
1851
1851-O
1853-O Arrows
1854-O Arrows
1855-O Arrows
1856-O
1858 Short Pole
1858 Repunched Date
1859 Repunched Date
1861/0
1863
1863-S
1868
1868-S
1869
1871-S

**R2:**
1839 No Drapery
1840 No Drapery
1840 Drapery
1843
1843 Double Date
1845
1845/1845
1848 Medium Date
1849
1850
1852
1853 No Arrows
1857-O
1858-O
1859-O
1860 V-3a,b,c
1873

**R1:** All the rest.

## MINT STATE

**R8:** 1870-S

**R7:**
1838-O No Stars, V-1
1840-O No Drapery, Small O, V-6 Transitional
1840-O Drapery, Small O
1846
1848-O Small O
1853-O No Arrows
1859 Reverse of 1860
Transitional

**R6:**
1840-O No Drapery, Large O
1840-O No Drapery, Medium O
1841-O
1842-O
1844-O Large O
1844-O Small O
1849-O
1852-O
1858 Double Date
1860 Transitional
1861/0
1865-S Repunched Date

**R5:**
1840-O No Drapery, Small O, V-3 to V-4a
1847/18
1848 Large Date
1848/1848
1848/8/7
1848/7/6
1849/8
1849/6
1850-O
1853-O Arrows, (N-6)
1856-O
1858 Inverted Date
1862 Double Date
1864-S
1865
1865-S
1866
1866-S
1867-S
1869-S

**R4:**
1838 Small Stars
1840 Drapery
1843/1843
1844
1844 Repunched Date, V-3b + V3c
1848 Medium Date
1848-O Large O
1848-O Medium O
1849
1851-O
1853-O Arrows
1854-O Arrrows
1855-O Arrows
1859-O
1862 Uphill Date
1863-S
1864
1867
1868
1868-S
1872 Double Date Obverse
1872-S Triple Date

**R3:**
1841
1842
1843
1844 Repunched Date
1845/1845
1847
1850 V-1 and V-4
1851
1853 No Arrows
1857-O
1858 Short Pole
1858 Repunched Date
1858-O
1859 Repunched Date
1863
1869
1871-S
1873

**R2:** 1839 No Drapery
1840 No Drapery
1845
1850
1852
1859
1860 V-3a, b, c
1860-O

**R1:** All the rest.

Chapter 4

# Year & Mintmark Analysis

**Notes on Chapter 4:** Collectors (and especially those variety specialists who indulge in the patience of measuring a coin's details and their placement in relation to other aspects of the coin) should bear in mind that die lapping and wear will affect these measurements. A "new" variety may not be a new one at all, but simply a later die state of a known variety.

Variety numbers listed as "V" numbers in this chapter are those of D. W. Valentine.

Mintmark measurements, where applicable, are in millimeters and are taken from the top outside to the bottom outside of the mintmark. Mintmark sizes are defined as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Large | 1.1 - 1.2 millimeters |
| Medium | 0.9 - 1.0 millimeters |
| Small | 0.6 - 0.8 millimeters |

Slight variations can exist due to die wear. It is also apparent that early measurements of mintmarks by Neil and Valentine were imprecise. This may account for differences between this book and their works.

Census figures are based upon June 1991 Population Reports of the grading services. Values listed for 1947 and 1991 are taken from the 1st and 44th editions of Yeoman's, "A Guide Book of United States Coins" (also referred to as the "Red Book"). CW Trends values are retail figures from Coin World Trends, May 1963, and September, 1991, respectively.

In those cases where a truly new variety has been discovered and only the discovery piece is currently known, it is premature to assign a rarity rating. Such cases will be noted as they occur throughout this chapter. As collectors begin to search and find additional pieces, they should report them to the author so a rarity rating can be established for a future edition.

# 1837 "Large Date"
## (No Stars)

**MINTAGE:** 1,405,000 **PROOFS:** 20+

**VARIETIES:** No major varieties. Valentine recognized 3 die states (V-1, V-2, V-3a). Early business strikes and also proofs show the 8 with triple punching and partial punching on other numerals. Later strikes from repolished dies do not show repunching.

**SCARCITY:** A common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 453 (Ranking 76/77). See Appendix, Table 1.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 107 (29/39) both varieties.
**LSCC Varieties Survey:** 30 reported. See Appendix C, Table 6.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 25.00 | 18.00 | 23.00 |
| F | 2.00 | 45.00 | 40.00 | 45.00 |
| EF | — | 200.00 | — | 222.50 |
| MS60 | 4.50 | 600.00 | 125.00 | 600.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1600.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Distinguished from "Small Date" by the shape of the 1 in date which has a tall peak and is narrow. The date is also in a curved line and was punched with punches used on the 1837 Bust Half Dime. Specimens generally exhibit a strong strike with a full head, full toe, no softness in shield. Good definition of dentils, obverse and reverse. May be some softness on the reverse at LF in HALF (DIME). This coin's value is much greater than later R-1 half dimes because of its demand as a type coin.

1837 Large Date, No Stars. Triple punched date
Early die state

# 1837 "Small Date"
## (No Stars)

**MINTAGE:** Included with Large Date.

**PROOFS:** Included with Large Date

**VARIETIES:** The Small Date is the V-4 obverse with date in straight line and the reverse of the V-2 Large Date. Other die marriages may exist that combine the reverse of both the large and small dates and are assigned V-4a through V-6a.

**SCARCITY:** The "Small Date" is readily available but a little more difficult to locate than the "Large Date."

**Rarity Rating:** R1 all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS:** Included with Large Date.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** Included with Large Date variety.
**LSCC Varieties Survey:** 42 reported.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 27.50 | 18.00 | 21.50 |
| F | 2.50 | 55.00 | 40.00 | 42.50 |
| EF | — | 225.00 | — | 165.00 |
| MS60 | 6.00 | 750.00 | 125.00 | 535.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1350.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The "Small Date" has a thick flat flag on the 1 in the date. This date is also in a straight line with punches used on the 1838. Generally, a strong strike with full head, toe, shield, and dentils, and a strong date punch. Reverse may exhibit some weakness at A in HALF. Some specimens will have rotated reverses of varying degrees.

# 1838-O
## (No Stars)

**MINTAGE:** 70,000+

**VARIETIES:** V-1 with level date, centered. V-2 with low date running uphill toward base of rock.

**SCARCITY:** V-2 far scarcer than V-1.

**Rarity Rating:** V-1: G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R6, MS R7.
V-2: G-VF R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R7, MS Unknown.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 4 (Ranking7/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 60 (7/21). See Appendix C, Table 3.

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 75.00 | 27.50 | 60.00 |
| F | 2.50 | 200.00 | 60.00 | 160.00 |
| EF | — | 750.00 | — | 600.00 |
| MS60 | 20.00 | 3500.00 | 400.00 | 1750.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 4500.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Early strikes of the V-1 show a repunched first 8. Late strikes of the V-2 have a heavily rusted obverse die and should be graded by surface and reverse details (Breen). The obverse and reverse photos shown below are of the V-2. V-1 specimens generally exhibit a strong strike with full head, toe and shield. Date boldly punched. Later die states show die deterioration with a die crack from rim to head and Liberty's right shoulder to the rim. The reverse may display some mushiness of letters in legend. "HALF DIME" is bold, as is the mintmark which measures 1.2 millimeters from top to bottom and tilts slightly right. A number of the letters have die cracks to the rim. Also evidence of rust.

# 1838
## (Large Stars)

**MINTAGE:** 2,225,000 **PROOFS:** 5-6

**VARIETIES:** There are at least 15 varieties listed by Valentine, 5 of which have been muled to the 1837 V-2 reverse which is identified by the tip of the innermost leaf under D in DIME being notched (V-3, V-5, V-6, V-9, & V-10) Other varieties have various star placements, die marriages and die crack progressions. It is beyond the scope of this book to detail all of these minor varieties. Further detail on them may be found in the Valentine Book.

A new unlisted variety which is assigned V-15 and is considered unusual is described as follows: This variety has the obverse of the V-12 which normally has a defective star 1 and a die crack through star 13. However, the specimen reviewed has no die cracks anywhere and there are no die clashes. This may be an early die state of the V-12. The 1 in the date is recut at the top. The reverse is that of the 1837 V-2 with the notched innermost leaf described above. In addition, it also displays the diagnostic double-punched right base on T in STATES and first A in AMERICA.

**SCARCITY:** A common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 314 (Ranking 70/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 117 (31/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 7.00 | 1.75 | 5.25 |
| F | .50 | 12.50 | 4.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 55.00 | — | 52.50 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 425.00 | 20.00 | 325.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 710.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Stars were punched by hand from January 1838 to November 1840. This accounts for irregularities in spacing and size with double punching common. Any "partial drapery" obverse of this date is one which shows a heavy die clash from (DIM)E between the forearm and knee (Valentine 3).

# 1838
## (Small Stars)

**MINTAGE:** Included with Large Stars.

**PROOFS:** Included with Large Stars.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 with 3 significant obverse die states and the V-2 with Die State 4 of the V-1 and a new reverse die:

**V-1: Die State 1** obverse shows full large stars and rust beginning to show on Ms. Liberty's left arm. Stars 3 through 6 and 9 through 12 are doubled. The date is recut with the 1 first having been punched too low and earlier punches appearing less obvious on the 838. The reverse of this early die state shows the die crack from the rim through the first A in AMERICA to the wreath. There is no indication of the die crack from the rim to the C in AMERICA which appears on the later die states of the V-1.

**V-1: Die State 2** obverse shows more rust on Ms. Liberty's arm and skirt. Stars 1 through 4 have been diminished in size through die lapping with the balance of the stars remaining at near normal size. Two specimens of Die State 2 were looked at and it appears the recutting of the 1 is still evident, and there is a question as to whether the 8 is recut or there is metal displacement of another origin. No doubling appears on the 3. The reverse of this die state also shows the die crack from the rim through the first A in AMERICA to the wreath and, in addition, the beginnings of a faint crack from the rim to the C in AMERICA.

**V-1: Die State 3** obverse shows no apparent doubling of the date and most stars show no doubling. There is a question as to whether the 3 is doubled or recut. The reverse of Die State 3 is the same as that of Die State 2.

**V-2: Die State 4** obverse. This appears to be the final die state for the obverse of the small stars variety. Stars 1 and 8 are at their smallest, with Stars 9 through 12 a little larger, and Star 13 smaller. This variety also has a die crack from the rim through Star 13 into the field with faint traces of it up to Ms. Liberty's arm. The clashed area under the date has been lapped, and there is continued evidence of a doubled 3. The reverse of the V-2 is a new die with bold details and no die breaks from either the C or A in AMERICA.

## 1838 Small Stars (Continued)

**SCARCITY:** A little more difficult to locate than the Large stars, but can be found.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R3, MS R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 26 (Ranking tied for 24/77).
**LSCC Varieties Survey:** 18 reported.

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 15.00 | — | 13.00 |
| F | — | 50.00 | — | 45.00 |
| EF | — | 150.00 | — | 140.00 |
| MS60 | — | 900.00 | — | 550.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1150.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The Small Date variety is often misattributed and represents a small portion of the total mintage for 1838. Obverse dies used for the Philadelphia Mint Large Stars date were severely rusted and were ground down to remove the rust, resulting in the Small Stars Obverse. Rusted dies are generally associated with the New Orleans Mint where high relative humidity, conducive to rusting, was a factor, so it is somewhat unusual to find this condition on Philadelphia dies.

Jack Beymer, dealer and LSCC member,provided the author with three excellent examples of the V-1 for study which range from a very early die state to two intermediate die states.

# 1839
## (No Drapery)

**MINTAGE:** 1,069,150 **PROOFS:** 4-5

**VARIETIES:** V-1 Normal date.
V-2 1839 repunched 39 with later strikes showing only the 9 repunched.

**SCARCITY:** A common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 134 (Ranking tied for 59/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 60 (16/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 7.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .50 | 12.50 | 4.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 55.00 | — | 48.50 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 450.00 | 18.00 | 300.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 660.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Breen states that "many of the reported mintage of V-1 bore date 1838." This date nearly always exhibits a strong strike with full head, toe and shield, and a boldly punched date and stars. The only softness noted on V-1's was of dentils between 8 and 11 o'clock on the obverse and 8 and 10 o'clock on the reverse. The V-2 generally comes well struck with the repunched 3 fading on later strikes and only the repunched 9 still showing.

1839 No Drapery. Repunched "39"

# 1839-O
## (Reverse of 1838-O)

**MINTAGE:** Included in mintage of 1839-O, No Drapery.

**VARIETIES:** Only one variety (V-1). Early die state high grade specimens show a repunched 9, cut down as reported by Valentine. The reverse of this variety is distinguished by the 1838 Large O mintmark punch.

**SCARCITY:** Very rare and usually found in low grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R6, F-VF R6, EF-AU R7, MS Unknown.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS:** If any MS have been certified they were included with the regular 1839-O.
**LSCC Varieties Survey:** 8 reported.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | — | — | 150.00 | |
| F | — | — | — | 500.00 | |
| EF | — | — | — | — | |
| MS60 | — | — | — | 2750.00 | (AU) |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — | |

**COMMENTS:** The whereabouts of the Valentine plate coin is unknown. Eight specimens, including two AU's, are owned by LSCC members. There may be others in hands of collectors. High grade specimens are of an above average strike showing a very slight softness on head, shield, toe and date. Dentils lack some definition between 12 and 6 o'clock on obverse and 3 and 6 o'clock on reverse. Also some softness at A in HALF and I in DIME. The mintmark measures 1.2 millimeters and tilts slightly right with a fine die crack coming off of the lower right to the ribbon bow. The repunched 9 of this date has long been ignored because most specimens are of lower grades and evidence has worn off. Properly described, this date is the 1839/9-0 Large O, reverse of 1838-0.

1839-O (Rev of 1838-O) Recut 9

# 1839-O
## (No Drapery)

**Medium O**

**Small O**

**MINTAGE:** 1,034,039

**VARIETIES:** V-4, V-5 Medium sized oval O.

V-2, V-3, V-6 Small O which is round with some specimens showing repunching on the 1 and 9.

**SCARCITY:** Considered common and is readily available in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades, both mintmarks.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 14 (Ranking 14/77)*.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 134 (21/21).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 9.00 | 3.50 | 9.00 |
| F | 1.25 | 17.50 | 7.50 | 18.00 |
| EF | — | 60.00 | — | 65.00 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 500.00 | 35.00 | 440.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 800.00 |

## 1839-O No Drapery (Continued)

**COMMENTS:** The Small Round O variety comes with a number of reverse die rotations which would indicate that the set screws of the lower die loosened during production. There are also specimens with no rotation. The Medium and Small O both exhibit strong strikes with full head, shield, foot and strongly punched stars. Minor weakness sometimes shows at 12 o'clock for dentils on Medium O on obverse, as well as lower wreath on reverse. The mintmark on the Small O measures 0.8 millimeters and is centered midway between the bottom of the left base of the M in DIME and the bow.

1839-O Small O variety with recut "19"

* Although the population of certified coins for this date is surprisingly low, a review of LSCC survey data confirms this as a common date type coin.

# 1840
## (No Drapery)

**MINTAGE:** 1,034,000 **PROOFS:** 4-5.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-6 represent various date placements.

**SCARCITY:** A slightly better date, but readily available in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 144 (Ranking 62/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 66 (19/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 7.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .85 | 12.50 | 4.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 55.00 | — | 52.50 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 400.00 | 15.00 | 365.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 635.00 |

**COMMENTS:** New hubs made for obverse and reverse. Liberty has been modified with the following changes: Cap is smaller; shield is now upright rather than slanted; and the reverse now has taller but smaller letters. Some business strikes in uncirculated condition are prooflike but have weak dentils. Some specimens also may have weakness in Liberty's toe. On the reverse, the legend is thinner with weakness noted in some of the letters.

Still other specimens have strongly struck obverses with a full head, shield and toe. Worthy of mention is the late die state of the V-2 which has a significant obverse die crack from 12 o'clock to 6 o'clock.

# 1840-O

## (No Drapery – Large O)

**MINTAGE:** 695,000 (all mint mark sizes together)

**VARIETIES:** **V-1:** Large Round O.
**V-7:** An 1840-O No drapery obverse muled to the 1839-O large O, reverse of 1838-O. The discovery piece has a bisecting die crack on the reverse which begins at the rim and crosses through the O in OF, curves down through the right side of the mintmark, and runs down to the rim below the bow. There is a distinctive patch of raised metal just below the right side of the bow. Discovered by Brian Greer, herein designated V-7.

**SCARCITY:** Scarce in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** V-1: G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R5, MS R6.
V-7 One known to date.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 6 (Ranking tied for 11/77) - All mint mark varieties.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 69 (15/21) - All varieties.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 8.00 | 3.50 | 9.00 |
| F | 2.00 | 17.50 | 10.00 | 21.00 |
| EF | — | 80.00 | — | 67.50 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 525.00 | 60.00 | 550.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1025.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This variety is reasonably well struck with a full head and shield with minor weakness at the toe. Stars are well defined as are most of the dentils. The reverse displays a bold legend and wreath with minor weakness in the mintmark which measures 1.2 millimeters, and is midway between the bottom of the left base of the M in DIME and the bow.

# 1840-O

## (No Drapery – Medium O)

**MINTAGE:** Included with Large O.

**VARIETIES:** V-2 Medium oval O

**SCARCITY:** Scarce in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R6, MS R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS:** Included with Large O.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** Included with Large O.

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 8.00 | 3.50 | 9.00 |
| F | 2.00 | 17.50 | 10.00 | 21.00 |
| EF | — | 80.00 | — | 67.50 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 525.00 | 60.00 | 550.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1025.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The Medium O exhibits a strong strike with full head, toe and shield. Obverse dentils are fully defined. This variety has defective stars 3 and 9, and all stars are boldly punched as is the date. All aspects of the reverse are strongly struck. The mintmark measures 0.9 millimeters, tilts a little right, and is positioned just left of the center of the bow. There is evidence of die clashing. Also, there are many die cracks on late die state specimens.

# 1840-O

## (No Drapery – Small O)

**1840-O (Small O)**

**1840-O (Small O) Transitional**

**MINTAGE:** Included with Large O.

**VARIETIES:** **V-3:** Small Round O. Mint state specimens show a full head with minor softness in the lower portion of the shield and also the toe. Dentils are very weak on the obverse and reverse. Also some specimens show a die bulge on the obverse field at 3 o'clock. Stars 1 through 5 are thinner than stars 6 through 13. Date is not boldly punched. The reverse shows some weakness in the Legend at UNITED and parts of AMERICA. Mintmark is bold and measures 0.8 millimeters as do the mintmarks on the V-4, V-4a and V-6 which follow. Placement of the mintmark also varies on these varieties.

**V-4:** Recut date with the 840 first cut too low and then corrected. Stars 1, 5 and 6 are recut as are 12 and 13. Star 5 shows almost the full radial of an earlier mis-punched star between the radials of the existing star nearest Liberty's arm. The date is strongly punched and runs slightly uphill towards the rock. The reverse of this variety is in the process of shattering, with a die crack off of the base of the M in DIME to the top of the mintmark. Another crack runs from the bottom of the mintmark to each of the bow's ribbons. A stronger crack runs from the right ribbon to rim.

**V-4a:** The same obverse and reverse dies as the V-4, but stars 1,8,12 and 13 are recut. The 84 and O also are recut but the remnants of an earlier 4 are much closer to the final 4's cross bar. Date is boldly punched and runs downhill away from the rock. The reverse of this variety is a late die state which has many die cracks and raises the question of how much longer it may have lasted.

## 1840-O No Drapery (Continued)

**V-6:** Transitional Open Bud Reverse. The reverse is the new Hughes reverse with open buds and the larger legend letters used from 1840 to 1853. The obverse of this variety is the earlier "with stars" used from 1838-1840. Another diagnostic of this variety is that the clusters of leaves on either side of the word DIME have three leaves, while the old closed bud reverse has four leaf clusters. High grade specimens show a full head and shield with some softness at the date, toe and dentils. The reverse shows some weakness at I in DIME, but has a strong legend, bow and mintmark.

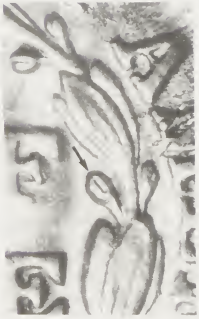
**SCARCITY:** V-3 through V-4a Very scarce,
V-6 Rare. Can be found with diligent searching, but usually in lower grades.

**Rarity Rating:** V-3 through V-4a are R5 all grades.
V-6 G-VG R6, F-VF R6, EF-AU R6, MS R7.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS:** Included with large O.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** V-6 transitional - 9 reported.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 8.00 | 3.50 | 9.00 |
| F | 2.00 | 17.50 | 10.00 | 21.00 |
| EF | — | 80.00 | — | 67.50 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 525.00 | 60.00 | 550.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1025.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Values above are for V3 -V4a. The values of the V-6 transitional are considerably higher in all grades.



1840-O Small O. Open Buds,Transitional Die

# 1840
## (With Drapery)

**MINTAGE:** 310,085 **PROOFS:** 2

**VARIETIES:** A single obverse and reverse die (V-7) with drapery and a Large Letters reverse.

**SCARCITY:** A better date which is available.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all circulated grades, R4 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 28 (Ranking tied for 26/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 51 (10/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 10.00 | 1.50 | 19.50 |
| F | 1.50 | 40.00 | 4.00 | 50.00 |
| EF | — | 150.00 | — | 160.00 |
| MS60 | 7.50 | 650.00 | 27.50 | 675.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1400.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The reverse of this date is from the hub first used on the 1840-0 Transitional (Large Letters), no Drapery variety. This date is well struck with a full head, shield, toe and boldly punched date. The pendant lines up just right of the upright of the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. Minor weakness in dentils. A strong reverse generally, but some minute weakness at 10 o'clock.

# 1840-O
## (With Drapery)

**MINTAGE:** 240,000

**VARIETIES:** V-5 with small round O and V-7 with small round O and a different large letters reverse than that used on the V-5. Discovered by W. Harmon.

V-5 has a full head, shield and toe; also a bold date and some weakness in the dentils. The pendant lines up slightly right of the upright of the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. Also the obverse die shows some evidence of rust. Late die states of the reverse will show mushy letters in UNITED and AMERICA. The mintmark measures 0.8 millimeters, tilts slightly left, and lines up directly under the left standard of the M in DIME. Lower portion of ribbon is weak with cracks off of ribbon ends.

The new V-7 combines the obverse of the V-5 with a different large letters reverse. Die cracks on the new reverse run from the rim through the left edge of the U in UNITED to a leaf and from the edge through I in AMERICA to a bud.

The V-7 obverse die states range from no die cracks to a late state where a crack extends through Liberty and runs out near the hand and staff. Mintmark is a small one measuring the same as the V-5.

For an in-depth analysis, see Harmon's article on the 1840-O in The Gobrecht Journal Collective Volume Number 3, 1990, 119-122.

**SCARCITY:** This date is rare in higher grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R6, MS R7.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 0 (Ranking tied for 1/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 62 (9/21).

## 1840-O with Drapery (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 25.00 | 4.00 | 25.00 |
| F | 2.50 | 75.00 | 9.00 | 77.50 |
| EF | — | 300.00 | — | 350.00 |
| MS60 | 7.50 | — | 60.00 | — |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — |

**COMMENTS:** The V-5 reviewed has a certified grade of AU55 and the V-7's were EF.

# 1841

**MINTAGE:** 1,150,000 **PROOFS:** 5-6 (all V-1)

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (Proof only). V-2 and V-3 represent variations of the date replacement. There is also a repunched date (RPD) variety with a repunched 1 at the top, and a reverse with heavy lettering. Discovered by Kamal Ahwash in 1974, it is designated V-4.

The V-2 in late die states exhibits a significant die crack running diagonally from 2 to 7 o'clock. This variety usually is strongly struck, with full head, shield and toe. Date and stars boldly punched. The pendant lines up just right of the upright of the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. Some weakness in dentils. Die clashes are evident on both sides with date showing inversely on top portion of reverse on some specimens. Minor weakness of dentils on reverse, otherwise strongly struck.

**SCARCITY:** Common Date.

**Rarity Rating:** R-3 in all grades
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 84 (Ranking 49/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 56 (14/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .75 | 9.00 | 3.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 47.50 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 250.00 | 15.00 | 240.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 495.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Comes well struck.

# 1841-O

**Medium O**

**Small O**

**MINTAGE:** 815,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1, V-1a, V-2 are small O varieties with the V-1a being a later die state of the V-1 with a cracked reverse. V-2 has a different date placement and the reverse of the V-1. V-3 and V-4 have a medium oval O. V-5 is a new variety discovered by W. A. Harmon. It has the obverse of the V-2 muled to the reverse of the 1840-O, small O (V-7).

The small O (V-1) exhibits an average strike with some minor weakness at the head, lower portion of shield, dentils, toe. The pendant is lined up between the 4 and the second 1. Minor weakness is noted on the upper portions of wreath and dentils on the reverse. The mintmark measures 0.8 millimeters and is centered directly over the bow knot midway between it and DIME.

The medium O (V-4) exhibits a strong strike with a full head, shield and toe. Date is boldly punched as are the stars. The pendant and shield positions are the same as the V-1. This variety has a strong reverse with some evidence of die clashing. The mintmark measures 1.0 millimeters, tilts slightly left, and is positioned directly under the left base of the M in DIME.

## 1841-O
## (Continued)

V-5 also has a mintmark measuring 0.8 millimeters. Known from only 1 specimen–a choice XF–from a well worn die.

Frank Van Valen, a LSCC Member has discovered a variety that is similar to the V-3 medium O, but it has all four digits repunched in the date.

**SCARCITY:** Medium and Small O are scarce all grades, especially in mint state. Only one specimen of the V-5 is known to date.

**Rarity Rating:** Both mintmarks: G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU R4, MS low R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 8 (Ranking 13/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 67 (13/21) - All varieties.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 10.00 | 2.50 | 11.50 |
| F | 1.75 | 20.00 | 6.00 | 25.00 |
| EF | — | 80.00 | — | 85.00 |
| MS60 | 4.50 | 550.00 | 45.00 | 575.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 975.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Neil also listed a large wide O (N-4) but this may be a measurement error. The medium O mintmark measures 1.0 millimeters wide. Please contact the author if you know of a specimen with a larger mintmark.

# 1842

**MINTAGE:** 815,000 **PROOFS:** 6-8

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-4 represent date position variations and deterioration of dies.

**SCARCITY:** A somewhat better date, but available and can be located in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 79 (Ranking 46/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 46 (8/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .75 | 9.00 | 3.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 47.50 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 250.00 | 15.00 | 250.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 505.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Later die states show an ever increasing network of die cracks, obverse and reverse. Specimens are generally strongly struck with full head, shield and toe. Date is boldly punched as are stars. The pendant is lined up slightly right of the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. There may be softness of dentils on both sides.

Comes well struck with nice luster.

# 1842-O

**MINTAGE:** 350,000

**VARIETIES:** **V-1, V-2, V-3** Small O from five pairs of dies. Breen reports a "No Drapery" variety (his #3030). A severely lapped Obverse Die produced very incomplete detail at Liberty's breast and elbow. There is also a heavy clash mark at IM in DIME on the reverse. No V number has been assigned.

V-1 has a heavy high date and heavy lettering on the reverse. The V-2 has a slender medium date with medium lettering on the reverse.

V-3 is probably the die of V-2 with thin reverse lettering. Specimens of this variety are strongly struck with some softness noted at head and lower left portion of shield. The foot has full details. Dentils on obverse are weak from 9 o'clock to 12 o' clock. The pendant is lined up between the 4 and 2, but closer to the 4, and the shield points to the right side of the top of the 1. Perfect reverse with a round mintmark which is well left of center of the bow knot, tilted slightly left, and midway between the bow and DIME. The mintmark measures 0.8 millimeters.

**SCARCITY:** One of the key dates in the half dime series. Very scarce, but is available with searching in grades VF and below. Rare in mint state.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R6, MS R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 6 (Ranking tied for 9/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 53 (3/21).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 20.00 | 4.00 | 22.50 |
| F | 2.00 | 50.00 | 10.00 | 65.00 |
| EF | — | 200.00 | — | 725.00 |
| MS60 | 5.50 | — | 75.00 | 1450.00 (AU) |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — |

**COMMENTS:** Fairly well struck for an O-mint.

# 1843

**MINTAGE:** 1,165,000 **PROOFS:** 4-5

**VARIETIES:** Valentine lists 7 varieties, most of which have variations in date placement and die crack progressions. The unusual V-4 variety has a full head and shield with the toe lacking some definition. Stars are boldly punched and the date is a little weak with a filled 4. The pendant lines up between the 4 and 3, but is closer to the 4, and the shield points to the right side of the top of the 1. The reverse is well struck, but this variety and die state has a prominent network of die cracks. One crack runs from the rim through the second T in STATES, A in HALF and M in AMERICA and bud in the wreath through LF in HALF where it joins the other crack at the A. An excellent example of a reverse die breaking up.

There is also a variety, as described by Neil (N-4) which has the 1 in the date recut with the earlier 1 plainly showing at the base. The double date variety (V-6a) is significant and is discussed on the next page.

**SCARCITY:**. A common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in circulated grades, R3 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 88 (Ranking 50/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 86 (25/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .75 | 9.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 46.00 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 250.00 | 12.50 | 240.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 495.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Comes well struck with nice luster.

# 1843
## (Double Date)

**MINTAGE:** Included with regular1843.

**PROOFS:** Included with regular 1843.

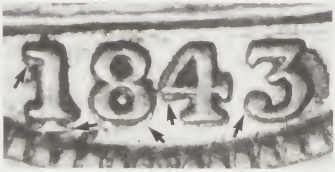
**VARIETIES:** V-6a. Entire date first punched too low and then corrected. This variety has a head, shield and toe that are a trifle weak as are dentils from 10 o'clock. The date is boldly punched with the under digits plainly showing. Pendant is lined up between the 4 and 3, but is closer to the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. Stars are boldly punched on the reverse. There is some weakness in the wreath and lower portion of the bow.

**SCARCITY:** Slightly better date, tougher in mint state.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R2, MS R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS:** Included with regular 1843.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 16 reported.

| VALUE: | ESTIMATED |
|---|---|
| G | 7.00 |
| F | 10.00 |
| EF | 55.00 |
| MS60 | 300.00 |
| MS63 | 600.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Warrants a 20-25% premium over common 1843.




1843 (Double Date) V-6a

# 1844

## (Normal Date)

**MINTAGE:** 430,000 **PROOFS:** 9

**VARIETIES:** V-1, V-2.

**SCARCITY:** The Normal Date is much scarcer than the Repunched Date, discussed on the following page.

**Rarity Rating:** R4 all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 101 (Ranking 53/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 73 (21/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book* 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends* 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 3.00 | 5.25 |
| F | 1.35 | 9.00 | 7.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 50.00 |
| MS60 | 3.75 | 250.00 | 30.00 | 270.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 635.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The V-2 specimen examined displayed a strong strike with a full head and toe. All stars are strongly punched. There was good definition of dentils, and no weakness was noted in the shield. The point of the shield is aimed at the right side of the flag of the 1, while the pendant lines up with the right end of the crosslet of the first 4. Specimen had a perfect reverse.

*Since the repunched date is the more common variety, Trends and Red Book prices apply to it. The "Normal date" ought to bring a significant premium, but in reality the opposite is true.

# 1844

## (Repunched Date)

**MINTAGE:** Included in 1844. **PROOFS:** 6

**VARIETIES:** V-3, Repunched 18. V-3a - Repunched 184 (AHWASH). V-3b - Triple Punched 1 and 8 and Double Punched First 4 (Blythe). V-3c - Quadruple Punched 1 and 8 and Triple Punched First 4 (Fivaz).

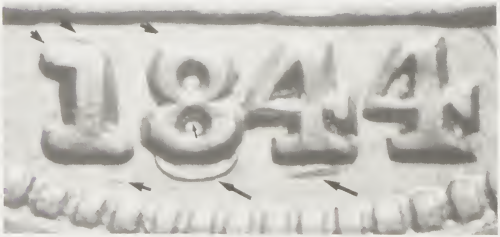
**SCARCITY:** Found more often at shows than the 1844 Normal Date, but still a scarce date. V-3b and V-3c in higher grades are particularly scarce.

**Rarity Rating:** R 3 in all grades except for V-3b and V-3c which is R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS:** included with normal 1844
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 28 reported.

**VALUE:**

| | Estimated all Varieties |
|---|---|
| G | 5.25 |
| F | 8.00 |
| EF | 50.00 |
| MS60 | 270.00 |
| MS63 | 540.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Although there are claims that this RPD is scarce, this was not supported by the high number reported in the LSCC variety survey.




1844 V-3c Repunched Date (1844/184/184/18)

# 1844-O

**MINTAGE:** 220,000 **PROOFS:** 1 (unverified).

**VARIETIES:** V-1 with medium O mintmark and V-2 with a small O. The V-1 is normally well struck with a full head and toe, but with some weakness in the lower left portion of the shield. Date is boldly punched as are the stars. The pendant is lined up slightly to the right of the upright of the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. Dentils are well defined, obverse and reverse. On the reverse, there is some weakness at AL in HALF and also some softness in the wreath. The medium O mintmark measures 1.0 millimeters, and is positioned just right of the bow knot, tilts slightly left, and is midway between the bow and DIME.

The small round O variety (V-2) has a reverse that is sometimes rotated 180 degrees. It is usually found in low grades. This variety has a diagnostic die flaw at 9 o'clock on the obverse. The mintmark measures 0.8 millimeters.

**SCARCITY:** One of the key dates of the series. Small O is scarce but can be found in lower grades. The medium O is more difficult to locate. It is very tough in grades G through VF and extremely scarce in mint state.

**Rarity Rating:** Medium O: G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU R5, MS R6.
Small O: G-VF R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R4, MS R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 0 (Ranking tied for 1/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 73 (21/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 55.00 | 5.00 | 70.00 |
| F | 4.00 | 140.00 | 15.00 | 210.00 |
| EF | — | 800.00 | — | 725.00 |
| MS60 | 7.50 | — | 75.00 | 7500.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — |

**COMMENTS:** Among regular issues, this date ranks third to the 1853-O No Arrows and 1846 in price in high grade. Though a New Orleans coin, the few high grade specimens examined were pretty well struck.

# 1845

**MINTAGE:** 1,564,000 **PROOFS:** 6-8

**VARIETIES:** At least 11 varieties of normal or partially repunched dates. The 5 in the date is high and the 845 touch.

The V-1, in particular, has a strong strike with a full head shield and toe. Date is boldly punched as are stars. The pendant lines up between the 4 and 5, but closer to the 5, and the shield points to an area between the 1 and the 9. Minor softness of the dentils noted at 9 o'clock and also at 3 o'clock. Perfect reverse.

**SCARCITY:** A common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 102 (Ranking tied for 54/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 109 (30/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .75 | 9.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 46.00 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 250.00 | 12.50 | 230.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 445.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Most varieties of this date come well struck with nice luster.

# 1845/1845

**MINTAGE:** Included in normal 1845.

**PROOFS:** Included in normal 1845.

**VARIETIES:** V-5

**SCARCITY:** A better date, but not as scarce as once thought (36 reported in LSCC survey).

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R2, MS R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS:** Included with normal 1845.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 36 reported.

**VALUE:**

| | Estimated 1991 |
|---|---|
| G | 7.00 |
| F | 10.00 |
| EF | 55.00 |
| MS60 | 300.00 |
| MS63 | 600.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This variety was first thought to be an 1845/3 as described by Valentine, but the extra segments at the 5 do not match at the 3 and is still often sold as an 1845/3. Comes with some softness at the head, left portion of shield and toe. The stars are a little weak. Date boldly punched. The pendant is directly centered over the 4, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Worth a 20-25% premium over the common 1845.

1845/1845 (V-5)

# 1846

**MINTAGE:** 27,000 **PROOFS:** 10-12

**VARIETIES:** V-1. Business Strike has the point of the shield over the right edge of the 1, and the 4 and 6 touch. Business strike specimens are usually found in lower grades. Proofs have the shield point left of the 1. The V-1 generally has a fairly strong strike with minor softness noted at head and left portion of the shield. The 8 in the date is partially filled; all stars are well defined. The pendant is centered between the 4 and the 6, and the shield points to an area between the 1 an 8.

**SCARCITY:** One of the key dates of the series. Very scarce in lower grades. Rare in mint state.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R6, MS R7.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 0 (Ranking tied for 1/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 43 (5/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 125.00 | 30.00 | 150.00 |
| F | 15.00 | 250.00 | 60.00 | 300.00 |
| EF | — | 900.00 | — | 1100.00 |
| MS60 | 45.00 | — | 150.00 | 2100.00 (AU) |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — |

**COMMENTS:** Among regular issues, ranks second in price (to the 1853-O No Arrows) in higher grades. Is the most expensive regular issue in lower grades.

# 1847

**MINTAGE:** 1,274,000 **PROOFS:** 8-10 (V-2)

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-5 represent various date placements in relation to the base of the rock. The V-1 also comes with a repunched 18.

The 1847 repunched 18 (V-1) also comes strongly struck with a full head and shield. The toe is slightly soft. Date is boldly punched and is crowded into the base with the under digits 18 plainly showing. The pendant is centered over the 4 and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Stars are boldly punched with evidence of recutting around most of them. Perfect reverse with heavy lettering in the legend.

V-4 is strongly struck with a full head, shield and toe, and a bold date and stars. Pendant is lined up to the left of the upright of the 4, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Some specimens may have weak dentils from 7 o;clock to 10 o'clock on the reverse.

**SCARCITY:** A slightly better date and readily available, except for the V-1 repunched 18, which is usually found in lower grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in all grades, except for repunched 18, which is R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 80 (Ranking 47/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 81 (22/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .85 | 9.00 | 3.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 46.00 |
| MS60 | 2.75 | 250.00 | 12.50 | 230.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | |

1847 Enlargement of repunched 18

# 1848

**MINTAGE:** 668,000 **PROOFS:** 8-12

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-7a represent various date positions and two date sizes – a Large Date (V-1) and Medium Date, (V-2-V7a). Also the 1848/48 mentioned by Breen and designated V-8. There are at least several mulings; the V-2 obverse and V-1 reverse and the V-5 obverse with the V-3 reverse (Ahwash); the 1848/8 large date was recently discovered by the author (designated V-1a).

The **Large Date** (V-1) overlaps the rock and may be found with or without die file marks through CA in AMERICA. The date was punched in using the Seated dime logotype with the top of the 1 nearly touching the shield. The pendant is lined up just right of the upright of the 4, and the shield points to an area between the 1 and 8. There is only one obverse die, but two varieties: one with the repunched last 8 and defective stars on the right side, and another with the repunched 8 and defective stars removed.

The V-3 though a medium date has all numbers touching the base and is a little weakly struck with weakness at the head, toe and shield. Date is boldly punched, and the obverse dentils lack definition at 10 o' clock. The pendant is lined up between the 4 and 8, but closer to the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. The reverse may show some weakness in the wreath and the ribbon ends of the bow.

The 1848/48 Medium Date shows the doubling plainest at the 48. Die polishing caused only traces of the doubling to remain on the 8, and coins showing only the doubling on the last 8 command less of a premium. The 1848/48, V-2 Obverse, V-1 Reverse specimen analyzed has some weakness at the head. Shield and toe are well defined and the date is boldly punched. The pendant is between the 4 and the 8, but closer to the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. Dentils are weak from 2 to 4 o'clock. The wreath is a trifle weak on the right portion of the reverse as are the dentils at 4 o'clock.

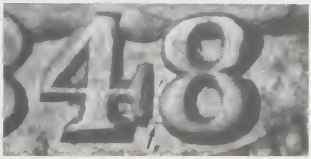
# 1848
# (Continued)

**SCARCITY:** The Medium Date is readily available.
The Large Date, overlapping the rock, is scarce, especially in high grades.

**Rarity Rating:** (Medium Date): R2 in all circulated grades, R4 in MS.
(Large Date): G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU R5, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS Ranking** (Medium Date) = 28 (Ranking tied for 26/77).
(Large Date) = 19 (Ranking 21/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 124 (33/39).
**LSCC Variety Survey:** 34 of Large Date reported.
**LSCC Variety Survey:** 14 of the 1848/48 reported.

| **VALUE:** (Med. Date) | **Red Book 1947** | | **Red Book 1991** | | **CW Trends** | | **CW Trends** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Md** | **Lg** | **Md** | **Lg** | **Md** | **Lg** | **Md** | **Lg** |
| G | — | — | 5.00 | 10.00 | 1.50 | | 5.25 | 10.00 |
| F | 1.00 | 1.35 | 9.00 | 20.00 | 3.50 | | 8.00 | 29.00 |
| EF | — | — | 40.00 | 100.00 | — | | 46.00 | 70.00 |
| MS60 | 3.00 | 3.50 | 250.00 | 475.00 | 15.00 | | 230.00 | 360.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — | — | | 445.00 | 515.00 |

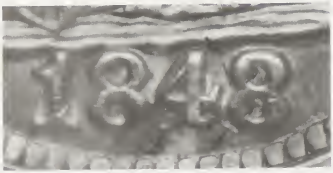
**COMMENTS:** The medium date is often misattributed as the large date. Both come well struck with nice luster. The Large Date warrants a 25% premium in all grades.


1848 Large Date (V-1a)

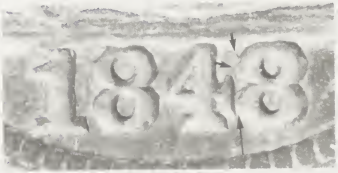
1848/48 Enlargement of date area (V-8)

# 1848

## (1848/7/6 - 1848/8/7)



1848/7/6



1848/8/7

**MINTAGE:** Included in 1848.

**VARIETIES:** 1848/7/6 - J. Collins (No Valentine number yet assigned).
1848/8/7 - J. Beymer (No Valentine number yet assigned).

The Medium Date 1848/7/6 shows the serif of an earlier 7 at the upper left of the final 8 with traces of an earlier 6 at the lower left. The 4 is triple punched. An identifying diagnostic of this variety is a heavy die file mark in the field right of the date joining the rim. There is also a die file mark to the left of the date from the base of the rock directly below Liberty's hand to the rim. Specimens of the variety are strongly struck with a full head and shield. Toe is a little weak. Star 12 is defective. The date is boldly punched. The pendant is just right of the upright of the 4, and the shield points to the top of the 1. The reverse may have weakness in the upper right hand of the wreath.

The 1848/8/7 Medium Date was discovered by Jack Beymer in 1989. It has defects around all stars which are boldly punched. The final date is boldly punched and is merged with the base. Repunching to the left of the final 8 shows evidence of an earlier 8 close to the serif of the 4, and there is no evidence of another digit within the loops of the 8. The top of an earlier 7 is visible left of the upper loop of the 8. The pendant lines up with the upright of the 4, between the upright and serif. The right side of the 1 lines up with stripe 8 in the serif. The shield points to the top of the 1. To date, less than 10 specimens of this variety have been discovered

**SCARCITY:** Both varieties are very scarce.

**Rarity Rating:** 1848/7/6: G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU R5, MS R5.
1848/8/7: R5 all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS Ranking** = 1 certified as a variety, AU55.
(ANACS - 1848/7/6)

## 1848 (1848/7/6 - 1848/8/7 - 1848/48) (Continued)

| VALUE: | Estimated (all Varieties) 1991 |
|---|---|
| G | 15.00 |
| F | 40.00 |
| EF | 150.00 |
| MS60 | 500.00 |
| MS63 | 850.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Both varieties are out there to cherry pick for those with sharp eyes.

# 1848-O

**Large O**

**Medium O**

**Small O**

**MINTAGE:** 600,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1, V-3, V-5 Large O, V-2 Medium O, V-4 Small O

This date appears to have a number of mulings that are unlisted. There are at least three obverses and four reverses for the five varieties known. This suggests that a separate in-depth study be undertaken to sort them out. Such a study is currently in process by Bill Harmon who will publish the results in the near future.

Since this date is usually found in lower grades diagnostic analysis is difficult. The following information is offered:

- Pendant placement in relation to the date for the Large O varies from being centered over the 4 to the right of the center of the 4 to between the 4 and 8. Placement of the pendant for the Medium O is left of the center of the 4. For the Small O, it is also left of the center of the 4.

- Mintmark placement for the Large O varies from being low and right in relation to the bow knot to far right to centered. Medium O mintmark placement is low and slightly right, and also high and left. Small O mintmarks seen are high and slightly left, and also centered and low.

## 1848-O
## (Continued)

A Large O V-1 lower grade example which was examined had a partially retained die break on its reverse at 5 o'clock; this is unusual and rare. This variety has an open date, and the pendant lines up just right of the upright of the 4. The reverse shows the ALF in HALF and IM in DIME as being weak. The mintmark which is the Large O measures 1.2 millimeters and is right of center and close to the bow.

The V-3 Large O (V-2 Obverse, V-1 Reverse),comes strongly struck but has slight weakness at the head, upper left portion of the shield, and also the toe. All stars except star 7 are defective. The date is boldly punched. The point of the shield points to the flag of the 1. The pendant is directly over center of the 4. On the reverse, the AL in HALF and I in DIME are weak. Die clashes may exist. The Large O mintmark measures 1.2 millimeters lengthwise, and is low and right of center in relation to the bow. This variety is very scarce with relatively few specimens known to date.

The Medium O (V-2) variety has a strong strike with a full head. Minor weakness in shield at lower left. The foot of Ms. Liberty has full definition. Date is bold with all numerals up against the base. The pendant lines up just left of center of the 4. Stars 4 through 6 are defective. Dentils are strong. On the reverse, the legend shows a little softness. The Medium O mintmark is centered and high, and measures 1.0 millimeters.

Small O, V-4, mint state specimens are strongly struck with minor weakness in lower left portion of shield. All stars except star 8 are defective. The date is strongly punched and up against the base. A die crack runs off of the right side of the 1 into the upper loop of the 8. Another runs off of right side of 4 to upper loop of the second 8. The pendant is centered over the upright of the 4 and the shield points to the flag of the 1. The reverse displays strong dentils. Legend is strongly struck; however, there is the start of a die break off the rim toward the last A in AMERICA and another above this which eventually became a major die break. There are Small O specimens which have a huge die break that obviously is an example of progressive die deterioration. It covers an area from the rim after the first A in AMERICA to the R. There may be some weakness on the left side of the mintmark. The reverse is rotated 15 to 20 degrees counter-clockwise with a mintmark that measures 0.8mm. A relatively small number of the Small O V-4 variety are known.

**SCARCITY:** Not an easy coin to find in any grade. The Large O and Medium O are scarce, especially in mint state and the Small O is rare.

**Rarity Rating:** Large O: G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R3, MS R4.
Medium O: G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R3, MS R4.
Small O: G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R6, MS R7.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 47 (Ranking 39/77) - All varieties.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 69 (14/21) - All varieties.

## 1848-O
## (Continued)

| VALUE: (Large and Medium O) | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.00 | 4.00 | 11.00 |
| F | 2.00 | 27.50 | 10.00 | 27.50 |
| EF | — | 100.00 | — | 97.50 |
| MS60 | 7.50 | 475.00 | 75.00 | 435.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 700.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Typical O-mint strike, with flatness on Liberty's right knee in higher grades.

# 1849

**MINTAGE:** 1,309,000 **PROOFS:** 5 (?)

**VARIETIES:** V-3, V-6, V-7, V-8 (proof), represent various date placements.The V-8 mules a new obverse with reverse of V-6. There are also varieties with the date partly and completely repunched. Valentine originally listed 5 varieties which he did not consider overdates. In some cases there was repunching but these are still considered 1849/1849 to some degree. Breen found none without repunching but I have seen one.

The 1849/1849 RPD is well struck with some specimens showing a small die crack from the rim through the stars 11 and 12. Perfect reverse (Photo). No current V-number.

There is also a RPD with a double punched 1, 4 and triple punched 9. The date on this variety tends to be weak. Some specimens have knife edge rims caused by excessive striking pressure. Perfect reverse. No V-number.

**SCARCITY:** A slightly better date.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in circulated grades, R4 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 37 (Ranking tied for 31/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 193 (39/39).

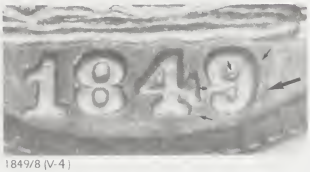
| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .50 | 9.00 | 4.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 46.00 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 250.00 | 15.00 | 230.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 440.00 |

## 1849
## (Continued)

**COMMENTS:** Generally well struck with nice luster.

1849/1849 Repunched date

# 1849/8



1849/8 (V-4)

**MINTAGE:** Included in 1849

**VARIETIES:** V-1, V-4, V-5.

**SCARCITY:** Usually available with some searching.
**Rarity Rating:** R3 all circulated grades, R5 MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS Ranking** = 23 (23/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 47 reported.

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 9.00 | 2.50 | 13.00 |
| F | 1.50 | 22.00 | 5.00 | 27.50 |
| EF | — | 80.00 | — | 110.00 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 500.00 | 25.00 | 350.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 725.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This overdate, as well as the "1849/6" is controversial. Differences of opinion exist as to what these overdates really are. Valentine described the V-4 and V-5 as being the 1849/8 with the V-4 showing a 9 stamped over an 8, and the V-5 with very few defects around the stars and only the lower loop of the 8 shows under the 9.

Ahwash described the 1849/8 "with the digit 8 showing at the upper right and the lower right of the digit 9; also, the digit 4 is recut." Bill Fivaz, (LSCC Gobrecht Journal, Collective Volume 2, 1985, 57-60) feels the variety designations are the opposite of the way they are currently listed, i.e., the 1849/8 is the V-2, and the V-4 and V-5 are the 1849/6 (actually, he feels a 9/horizontal 9). Readers are encouraged to review Bill's article in detail.

Tom DeLorey, (The Gobrecht Journal, Collective Volume 2, 1985, 61-64.) believes there are three different overdated obverse dies, and all of them are 1849/6. Following in part is Tom's analysis:

"The 1849 V-1 shows strong traces of what I believe are an 846 inside and atop the 849, and faint traces of the 1846 date digits in the field to the right of the corresponding 1849 digits. The lower right bulge of the 6 extends well to the right of the bottom half of the 9, but is not strong."*

DeLorey further explains how overdates were made. "(They) were made by heat softening the previously dated die and hand punching the new date directly over the old one via a four digit gang punch. The punching displaced the relatively soft die steel both down and out, driving traces of the original date deeper into the die directly beneath the punch. It also spread out and squeezed shut those parts of the original date which fell outside the new digits. This explains why underdate traces are stronger inside the overdate digits than outside, and why they sometimes appear atop the replacement digits on the struck coin."

## 1849/8
## (Continued)

"The V-1 variety is easily identified by the high position of the date, with the 184 touching and the 9 almost touching the base of the rock.....Kamal (Ahwash) believed this variety be an 1849/1848."

"Early die states of the V-2 show strong traces of an 846 atop the 849, a weak diagonal of the original 4 inside the replacement 4, and very strong remnants of the 6 inside and to the lower right of the 9.....On the V-6 usage of this die, the field was ground down so that the remnants of the 4 and 6 inside the 4 and 9 have disappeared. However, the deeper remnants atop the 849 remain, though they will be easily lost to circulation. Kamal Ahwash thought this variety was an 1849/8/6."

"V-4 and V-5 show no doubling of the 1 and the 8, but strong doubling of the base of the 4 down and to the right. Also, there are two small remnants of the 4 atop the upright of the replacement 4."

"The 6 shows very strongly atop the 9, as well as inside the top of the 9 and in the field to the bottom right of the 9. In addition, early die states show the tip of the ball of the 6 attached to the upper right side of the 9."

"The most convincing evidence that this is a 6 rather than an 8 or a horizontal 9 is the shape of the metal atop the left side of the 9. The shape is roughly that of a capital T lying on its side, so that the upright of the T points to the right."

"The only part of an underdate that could leave this shape is the left central portion of a 6. The left central portion of an 8 would leave a sideways V shape, while the top or bottom of a horizontal 9 or 6 would show as a curved line. Kamal believed this variety to be an 1849/8."

"Supporting evidence that these underdates are 1846's rather than 1848's includes the angle of the diagonal of the 4 on the 1846 date which appears to match that of the underdates. The angle of the 4 of the 1848 date is slightly more upright."

DeLorey continues, "To be fair, one strong bit of evidence against these pieces being 1849/1846's is the lack of doubling on the upper left serif of the 1. On 1846 dated coins the 1 had a thin, high serif, while on 1849 coins the 1 had a thicker, lower and more stylized serif. It is possible that the act of punching this thick serif just below the thin one displaced enough metal to squeeze the thin serif closed, but I have to admit that I cannot prove it."

# 1849/6

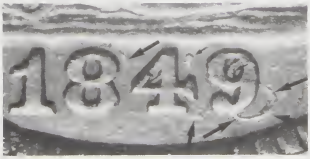
**MINTAGE:** Included in 1849.

**VARIETIES:** V-2

**SCARCITY:** Slightly better date, but available with some searching. Scarce in MS.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R3, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 18 (Ranking 20/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 54 reported.

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 8.00 | — | 10.00 |
| F | — | 20.00 | — | 23.00 |
| EF | — | 75.00 | — | 75.00 |
| MS60 | — | 475.00 | — | 315.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 625.00 |



1849/6 (V-1)

1849/6 (V-2)

# 1849-O

**MINTAGE:** 140,000

**VARIETIES:** Two minor varieties: V-1 Small open Medium Date.
V-2 Heavy Date. Both with Large O.

The V-1 specimen has a moderately strong strike with Liberty's head being nearly full, with the shield and toe full. Stars 1 through 7 are bold with stars 8 through 13 being less so. The 1 in the date is a little weak as are the dentils. The pendant is lined up with the center of the 4, and the shield points at the flag of the 1. The obverse die was rusted. There is a die crack through stars 1 through 7. On the reverse, there are small die cracks from the rim through T in UNITED and M in AMERICA. The mintmark measures 1.2 millimeters.

**SCARCITY:** Though not as rare as originally thought, specimens in higher grades (AU and above) are very scarce. Usually found in lower grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU R5, MS Low R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 5 (Ranking 8/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 54 (4/21).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 30.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| F | 6.00 | 85.00 | 60.00 | 85.00 |
| EF | — | 450.00 | — | 425.00 |
| MS60 | 20.00 | — | 125.00 | 2050.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — |

**COMMENTS:** Well struck for an O-mint strike.

# 1850

**MINTAGE:** 955,000 **PROOFS:** 7-8

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-5 represent various date placements. Also, the obverse of V-1 muled to reverse of V-2 (Breen) and now assigned V-6; the obverse of V-5 and a reverse with no die cracks and H in HALF joined to the leaf (Breen) and now assigned V-7.

The V-3 reverse die is distinguished by a die scratch from the rim between D in UNITED and S in STATES to leaf that almost touches the Berry under D.

The V-1 comes strongly struck with nearly a full head and shield and with a well defined toe. Date is boldly punched, and the pendant lines up with the right side of the flag of the 5. The shield points to near the top of the flag of the 1. Fully defined dentils, obverse and reverse. There are die polishing marks evident in the field near dentils between 5 and 6 o'clock. There may be some weakness on the reverse at the lower right ribbon of the bow.

The V-5 is also well struck. The pendant lines up with the right end of the 5's flag, and the shield points to the upper end of the 1's flag. All stars are well defined. Some reverses may show minor weakness at the knot of the bow.

**SCARCITY:** Common date except for V-1 and V-4. The V-1 and V-4 are fairly scarce, and the V-2 comes in proof only.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all grades, except for V-1 and V-4 which are R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 114 (Ranking 57/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 66 (18/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | .75 | 9.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 46.00 |
| MS60 | 3.00 | 250.00 | 12.50 | 255.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 470.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Comes well struck with nice luster.

# 1850-O

**Large O**

**Small O**

**MINTAGE:** 690,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1, V-1a (Large O); V-2 (Large Fat O); V-3 (Medium O); V-4 (Small O).

V-2 comes with an average strike and the obverse comes from a rusted die. The head of Liberty as well as her toe are a little weak as are the dentils. Later die states will show a die crack through the bottom of the date as well as through all 13 stars. The pendant lines up between the 5 and the O, but closer to the 5, and the shield points to the top of the 1. The reverse has a large rim cud at 7 o'clock near U in UNITED. Later die states show this cud having increased in size to have covered part of the U. The mintmark on this variety measures 1.2 millimeters.

Small O is usually found in low grades. This variety is not strongly struck and shows weakness at head, toe, shield and stars 7 through 13. Pendant lines up with the right side of the flag of the 5, and the shield points to near the top of the flag of the 1. The reverse will show some weakness at AL in HALF and DI in DIME, as well as the mintmark. It comes from a rusted die. Mintmark measures 0.8 millimeters.

## 1850-O
## (Continued)

**SCARCITY:** A tougher date but can be found with some searching, except for the Small O which is very scarce (R5). Medium O is unknown in mint state..

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in circulated grades, R5 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 15 (Ranking 15/77) - All varieties.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 63 (10/21) - All varieties.

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.00 | 2.50 | 10.75 |
| F | 1.00 | 27.50 | 6.00 | 24.00 |
| EF | — | 110.00 | — | 115.00 |
| MS60 | 6.00 | 800.00 | 45.00 | 685.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1450.00 |

# 1851

**MINTAGE:** 781,000 **PROOFS:** 3-4 (V-1).

**VARIETIES:** V-1, V-1a (High Date); V-2 (Low Date) with 7 obverses, 5 reverses.

V-1a specimens have a strong strike with minor weakness at head, toe and low portion of shield. Well defined dentils, boldly punched date as are all stars. The pendant lines up with the center of the 5, and the shield points to the top of the 1. The reverse had die polishing marks at 10 o'clock and a small die crack from the rim through U in UNITED into the wreath. Die clashes on the reverse.

**SCARCITY:** Fairly common in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 55 (Ranking 42/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 56 (13/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.30 |
| F | .85 | 9.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 43.50 |
| MS60 | 3.00 | 250.00 | 12.50 | 260.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 470.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Even though fairly low mintage with many coins melted, this coin is surprisingly available.

# 1851-O

**MINTAGE:** 860,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (Large O with 51 touching base), V-2 (Large O with 151 touching base).

The V-2 Large O has some weak areas on head, toe and middle left portion of shield. Dentils are weak, but date is boldly punched with the 151 touching the base. The pendant is lined up with the left side of the flag of the 5, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Good reverse strike with very minor weakness at right ribbon end and dentils. The legend, HALF DIME, and mintmark and most of wreath are boldly struck, with the mintmark measuring 1.1 millimeters.

**SCARCITY:** Fairly scarce but usually available in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R3 , MS R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 45 (Ranking 37/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 60 (8/21).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.00 | 2.00 | 6.50 |
| F | 1.00 | 25.00 | 5.00 | 21.00 |
| EF | — | 80.00 | — | 97.50 |
| MS60 | 3.00 | 700.00 | 40.00 | 575.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 975.00 |

# 1852

**MINTAGE:** 1,000,500

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (Compact High Date), V-2 (Open High Date), V-3 (Compact High Date - Heavy 1), V-4 (Open High Date - Light 1). The V-2, in particular, is strongly struck with a full head and toe, shield is slightly weak at central left. Date is boldly punched as are all stars. The pendant is centered between the 5 and the 2, and the shield points to near the top of the flag of the 1. This variety has a perfect reverse, except for minor weakness of dentils between 8 and 10 o'clock.

**SCARCITY:** Slightly better date.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 112 (Ranking 56/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 56 (12/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.25 |
| F | 1.00 | 9.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 43.50 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 250.00 | 12.50 | 260.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 460.00 |

**COMMENTS:** V-1, V-2 and V-3 display defects around some of the stars on the obverse.

# 1852-O

**MINTAGE:** 260,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1. The mintmark of this date is a large O.

**SCARCITY:** Generally found in low grades. Very scarce, EF45 and above.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R5, MS R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 7 (Ranking 11/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 55 (6/21).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 26.00 | 4.00 | 20.00 |
| F | 1.50 | 65.00 | 12.00 | 60.00 |
| EF | — | 250.00 | — | 235.00 |
| MS60 | 6.00 | — | 80.00 | 1000.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 2000.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Many pieces of this date were melted. High grade coins bring strong prices. Coins of this date are generally strongly struck with minor weakness at Liberty's head and toe. The shield is fully detailed and the date is boldly punched. Pendant lines up with the right side of the flag of the 5, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Stars have full definition. A perfect reverse with the mintmark measuring 1.1 millimeters. It tilts slightly left and is closer to the bow than the left base of the M in DIME.

# 1853

## (No Arrows)

**MINTAGE:** 135,000 **PROOFS:** None.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 has a large open date, heavy numbers which don't touch base. V-1a is a later die state.

**SCARCITY:** A slightly better date in low grades, fairly tough in high grade, but specimens can be found with diligent searching.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R2, MS R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 63 (Ranking 44/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 56 (12/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 24.00 | 10.00 | 25.00 |
| F | 2.00 | 60.00 | 20.00 | 55.00 |
| EF | — | 175.00 | — | 190.00 |
| MS60 | 10.00 | 700.00 | 75.00 | 550.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 985.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Most of the mintage was melted because the coins were worth over face value. This resulted from the Act of 21 February 1853. Those seen have strong strikes and display full head, toe and shield. Date and stars are boldly punched; dentils, obverse and reverse have full definition. The pendant on the V-1 lines up over the center of the 5, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Perfect reverse.

# 1853-O
## (No Arrows)

**MINTAGE:** 160,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1. Mintmark is a large O.

**SCARCITY:** Extremely tough, rare in high grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R6, MS R7.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 3 (Ranking 6/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 41 (1/21).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 125.00 | 60.00 | 150.00 |
| F | 30.00 | 250.00 | 100.00 | 235.00 |
| EF | — | 750.00 | — | 900.00 |
| MS60 | 125.00 | — | — | 2000.00 (AU) |
| MS63 | — | — | — | — |

**COMMENTS:** As with preceding date, most of the mintage of this date was re-melted. This date is almost always seen with a very weak date, although I have seen one specimen, an AU, with all numbers well defined. Most specimens show some softness in the head and shield, but with full definition of Ms. Liberty's toe. The 18 in the date are especially weak. The pendant is centered between the 5 and the 3, and the shield points to the right of the 1 and 8, but closer to the 1. Stars are strongly punched and well defined. On the reverse, there is some softness noted in the I of DIME. Dentils are also weak in places. The Large O mintmark is bold, measures 1.2 millimeters, and tilts slightly to the left. It is closer to the right ribbon bow.

# 1853

## (Arrows at Date)

**MINTAGE:** 13,210,020 **PROOFS:** 5

**VARIETIES:** There are 78 obverses and 80 reverses known plus many mulings. A description of all these is beyond the scope of this book. Readers are referred to Valentine and Neil for more detail. However, analysis of one variety, the V-5, is in order to provide a reference point for diagnostic identification. This variety is generally not well struck and shows weakness at head, toe and lower portion of the shield. Dentils lack definition between 9 and 12 o'clock. Date is boldly punched; arrows also boldly punched with barbs touching the base. The pendant is lined up with the right side of the flag of the 5, and the shield points to near the top of the flag of the 1. Reverse of this variety is from a different but similar die to earlier varieties, and is a perfect reverse.

**SCARCITY:** A common date readily available in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R-1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 441 (Ranking 74/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 175 (37/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 4.50 | 1.50 | 4.50 |
| F | .35 | 8.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 39.00 |
| MS60 | 1.25 | 250.00 | 15.00 | 190.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 550.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This date has the highest mintage of all of the dates of the HALF DIME series. Prices are higher than might be expected because it is a 3-year type coin.

# 1853-O
## (Arrows at Date)

**Large O**

**Medium O**

**MINTAGE:** 2,200,000

**VARIETIES:** V-2 through V-5, with as many as 18 obverses and 8 reverses with varying date and arrow positions. Early reports of an 1853/1-O variety proved to be a die crack through the 3 rather than a repunched 1, and this was probably the V-2. An unlisted variety which has a repunched 3 and a die break from the 1 in the date is known. Neil also described a variety which has a significant die break from the rim through star 7, down though Ms. Liberty and the shield, into the 1 at the date to the rim. This variety is rare, with only 1 seen to date. The obverse has a boldly punched date and stars, with those on the right being recut. Pendant is lined up with the right side of the flag of the 5, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. The large O mintmark on the reverse measures 1.1 millimeters, and is centered over the bow knot.

**SCARCITY:** A common date, except for the N-6 variety which is rare.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in all grades, R4 in MS except for the Neil 6 which is R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** 41 (Ranking tied for 35/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 80 (18/21).

## 1853-O Arrows (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 7.00 | 1.75 | 6.00 |
| F | .50 | 14.00 | 3.50 | 10.00 |
| EF | — | 75.00 | — | 49.00 |
| MS60 | 2.25 | 400.00 | 20.00 | 365.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1,000.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This date has the ninth highest mintage of the series.

1853-O Arrows. Significant die break (Neil 6)

# 1854
## (Arrows at Date)

**MINTAGE:** 5,740,000 **PROOFS:** 16-20 (V-2).

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-6. In V-1, date overlaps base. The 1854 heavily repunched 1 is a V-3. A repunched 1854 (1854/1854) is currently unlisted. The arrows and date positions vary on most varieties with the 54 free of the base, but some may exist with the 1854 touching.

V-1 has a strong strike with wire rims. The head and shield are full, but there is some weakness in the toe. Date shows some weakness in the upper portion of the numbers, particularly the 185, as well as the left arrow. All stars are bold, and minor weakness of dentils may be present at 5 o'clock. Die clashes, obverse and reverse.

The V-2 obverse, V-3a reverse is strongly struck with a full head, toe and shield. Dentils are fully defined. Strong die clashing is evident on the obverse and reverse. Date is boldly punched with all numbers touching the base of the rock as are the upper barbs of the arrows. Pendant is centered over the 5, and the shield points to the top of the 1. All stars are bold. Perfect reverse.

The 1854 heavily repunched 1 (V-3) originally may have been an 1854/1854 which, through die polishing and wear, had the earlier 854 effaced. Some specimens analyzed clearly show the base of an earlier 1 first cut too high and with what appears to be an extension of the flag of the 1. This variety does not come well struck and exhibits weakness at the head and central part of Ms. Liberty. The shield is full as is the toe, with the date and arrows boldly punched, as are the stars. Stars 3 through 9 are recut. The reverse of this variety may have weak dentils between 6 and 12 o'clock.

**SCARCITY:** Valentine and Neil varieties, other than those where the date overlaps the base and the repunched dates (1 and 1854), are common. V-1 and repunched dates are R4 in all grades. Proofs, which are V-2, are rare.

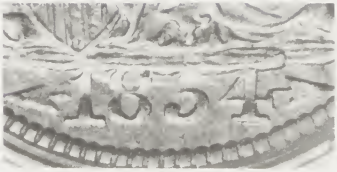
**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS=** 239 (Ranking 67/77) All varieties.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 131 (35/39).

## 1854 Arrows
## (Continued)

| VALUE: (Common varieties) | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 4.50 | 1.25 | 4.50 |
| F | .50 | 8.00 | 2.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 40.00 |
| MS60 | 1.25 | 275.00 | 15.00 | 190.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 575.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Breen says many coins of this date were minted from silver obtained from old-tenor coins returned in the Fall of 1853 from New Orleans.

1854 Arrows. 1854/1854 (Unlisted variety)


1854 Arrows. Date overlaps base (V-1)

1854 Arrows. Repunched 1 (V-3)

# 1854-O

## (Arrows at Date)

**MINTAGE:** 1,560,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-4 with date and arrows position variations. The mintmarks are all the same size. There is also a variety with a thin incomplete mintmark assigned V-5. A new variety (V-6), unlisted until now, has a high date with none of the numbers touching the base of the rock. Neither arrow barb touches the base, but the points do touch the center of a dentil. The date and all stars are boldly punched. Pendant is centered over the 5,with the shield pointing to the top of the 1. This new variety can be identified by a diagonal scratch running from southwest to northwest from top of banner in shield above T in LIBERTY across shield border and into the skirt (Photo) The reverse on some die states has rim cudding at 10 o'clock with some specimens having a rotated reverse. The mintmark measures 1.0 millimeters and is closer to the right ribbon bow. Neil and Valentine described this as a Large O, but it is more properly considered a medium O.

**SCARCITY:** Slightly better date, scarcer in high grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 circulated grades, R4 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** 37 (Ranking 31/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 71(16/21).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 6.50 | 1.50 | 5.85 |
| F | .85 | 11.00 | 3.00 | 8.50 |
| EF | — | 50.00 | — | 50.00 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 700.00 | 15.00 | 550.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1150.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The 1854-O also comes with various mintmark placements, the most interesting of which has a well centered O and obverse doubling at the pole and facial outline. Stewart Jones (LSCC) provided this information.

1854-O Arrows. Die scratch off of shield (V-6)

# 1855
## (Arrows at Date)

**MINTAGE:** 1,750,000 **PROOFS:** Unverified.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-6 represent slight date position variations and arrow barbs overlapping the rock upon which Liberty sits.

V-1 has arrows positioned high with barbs overlapping base. Dentils are weak. This variety generally is not well struck and has a weak head and lower portion of the shield. The foot is generally well defined. Pendant is centered over the first 5, and the shield points to the left of the 1. The date comes boldly punched with first 5 open, second 5 closed. Stars are well struck. The reverse generally has weak dentils.

C.F. Pilliod, LSCC, has discovered a new variety which is designated V-7. It shows a 7th horizontal stripe (instead of the normal six) in the shield. This was no doubt a die maker's error which was effaced when it was discovered. This variety also shows doubling on the pendant and folds of Ms. Liberty's skirt, as well as the lower part of the scroll with LIBERTY on it. The left arrow stem has an extension, about one half the thickness of the stem that runs at a 45 degree angle. It is anyone's guess as to what it is. Other 1855 arrows varieties show none of the foregoing. The pendant is centered over the first 5, and the shield points to an area left of the 1.

**SCARCITY:** A common date except for the new V-7.

**Rarity Rating:** R-1 in all grades except for V-7, which is too newly discovered to be assigned an R number.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 170 (Ranking 63/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 73 (20/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.25 | 4.50 |
| F | .50 | 8.00 | 2.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 40.00 |
| MS60 | 2.00 | 325.00 | 15.00 | 190.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 600.00 |

## 1855 (Arrows at Date) (Continued)

**COMMENTS:** Only one specimen of the new V-7 known thus far.

1855 Arrows. Extra horizontal stripe in shield, plus doubling (V-7)

# 1855-O

## (Arrows at Date)

**MINTAGE:** 600,000 **PROOFS:** 1 known.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 and V-1a both have an open medium date and a thin, rather low mintmark. The V-1a is a later die state of the V-1 (6 obverses and 4 reverses).

V-1's are fairly well struck with a full head and shield, but some weakness at the foot. Date is generally weakly punched as is the right arrow. The pendant is centered over the 5 and the shield points to an area left of the 1. All stars are well defined, with star 5 being defective. There is some weakness of the dentils, both sides. On the reverse, the mintmark measures 1.0 millimeters, is well struck and is located midway between the bow knot and the left base of the M in DIME. The distinguishing features of the V-1a are a rusted obverse (from a pitted die) and die cracks from the rim though Ms. Liberty's head and cap and stars 8 through 13. Late die states also show a massive die break on top of the hat.

**SCARCITY:** Fairly scarce in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R3, MS R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** 32 (Ranking 28/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 51 (2/21).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.00 | 2.50 | 15.00 |
| F | 1.75 | 25.00 | 6.00 | 25.00 |
| EF | — | 100.00 | — | 95.00 |
| MS60 | 8.50 | 800.00 | 25.00 | 575.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1250.00 |

# 1856

**MINTAGE:** 4,880,000 **PROOFS:** Number unknown (V-2)

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-8 represent varying date placements, shape of the top of the 5 and positions of the loop of the 6, ranging from open to closed. Thirty-one pairs of dies were used for this date.

V-1 comes with an average strike showing weakness at the head and toe. shield is fully struck up and the date is boldly punched. Stars have good definition. The pendant is located midway between the 5 and 6, and the shield points to the top of the 1. Weak dentils are the rule rather than the exception. There are both open and closed 6 varieties, with the open 6 reverse showing weakness in HALF DIME, especially the HAL in HALF and a portion of the M in DIME. Other specimens of this variety show a weak A in HALF. Breen reports an 1856 double date with an upright 5, curved top, closed 6, and also a V-2 proof with an upright 5, straight top, closed 6, and considers both very rare.

**SCARCITY:** Common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 225 (Ranking 66/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 103 (28/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.00 | 4.60 |
| F | .60 | 8.00 | 2.00 | 7.25 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 40.00 |
| MS60 | 3.00 | 225.00 | 15.00 | 180.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 405.00 |

## 1856
## (Continued)

**COMMENTS:** Also worthy of mention is the 1856/4 which was described as follows by Breen: "There is a report of an '1856 over 54' Proof said to have the date entirely repunched and larger than usual. This has led to examination of several earlier states of the regular V-2 proofs, but so far none has exactly matched the description of the Neil coin, nor has the latter shown up. Regular V-2 proofs do not show totally repunched dates, nor are dates larger than normal; the variety remains a numismatic ghost which has refused to be exorcised." Note Lot #2191 in the Levine collection auctioned by Bowers and Merena, 1986, was described as a Proof 63 1856/4 Half Dime. Reference is made to two other specimens (perhaps the same coin), one being offered in the W.W. Neil collection sold by Mehl in 1947 and the other in the Herstel collection sold by Bowers and Ruddy in 1974. The author would appreciate the current owner of this coin contacting him.

# 1856-O

**MINTAGE:** 1,100,000 **PROOFS:** 1 (untraced).

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-5 represent date position variations and number 6 configurations. Also, V-4 muled to reverse of V-1 (Breen) and designated V-6; also a variety similar to the V-2, but no die crack and with recut date and stars (Breen) designated V-7. All varieties of this date have the large O mintmark. Breen also reports a small O, but this is unverified.

V-2, open 6 is generally well struck with a full head, toe and shield. Date is boldly punched and the pendant is centered between the 5 and the 6. Shield points to the flag of the 1. Some softness may exist in dentils, particularly at 6 o'clock. All stars are boldly punched. Later die states show a network of fine die cracks on the obverse. Perfect reverse. The mintmark is oval shaped and measures 1.0 millimeters, is centered over the bow knot, tilts slightly left, and is positioned midway between the bow knot and DIME. Die clashes are evident on higher grades.

V-7 is an average strike with weakness evident at Liberty's head and toe. There is usually a full shield, and the boldly punched recut date will show the under digits very plainly and to the left of each number. The pendant lines up with the right side of the 5, and the shield points to an area left of the 1. Stars are well defined, but recut. Perfect reverse.

**SCARCITY:** A fairly tough date which is available with some searching. If a small O exists it is rare.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in all circulated grades, R5 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 17 (Ranking 19/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 64 (11/21).

## 1856-O
## (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 6.50 | 1.50 | 8.00 |
| F | 1.75 | 11.00 | 3.00 | 19.00 |
| EF | — | 45.00 | — | 80.00 |
| MS60 | 4.00 | 650.00 | 15.00 | 450.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1025.00 |

1856-O Repunched date (V-7)

# 1857

**MINTAGE:** 7,280,000 **PROOFS:** 16-20 (V-3).

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-9 represent various date placements and loop of the 5 ranging from open to closed. Coins struck from dies before the hub was retouched are V-1's.

Half dimes of the 1856-1858 period usually have weak dentils. Breen states that Longacre, in an attempt to correct this, sent the old hub to be softened, retouched and then rehardened. Coins dated 1857 and 1858 from the Philadelphia and New Orleans mints, and the 1859-O were mostly made from dies sunk from the retouched hub. Drapery details were sharpened, and the base of the rock near Liberty's foot was now wavy where it was formerly straight. An additional identifying diagnostic of the retouched hub is a dent on the innermost radial of star 3. All of these efforts proved to be a stopgap measure, and in 1859 a new hub was made for Philadelphia dates.

The V-4 has a soft uneven strike with a weak head and toe, but with a full shield. Date is bold with the loop of the 5 about closed. The pendant is centered over the 5, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Stars are bold, and there is some weakness in the dentils between 11 and 4 o'clock. The only weakness noted on the reverse is in the lower portion of the bow.

**SCARCITY:** A common date, with the exception of the V-1, which is rare.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades except for the V-1.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 392 (Ranking 73/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 131 (36/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.00 | 4.60 |
| F | .50 | 8.00 | 2.00 | 7.25 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 40.50 |
| MS60 | 1.25 | 225.00 | 10.00 | 180.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 405.00 |

**COMMENTS:** One of the high mintage dates.

# 1857-O

**1857-O (Unretouched Hub)**

**MINTAGE:** 1,380,000 **PROOFS:** 1 (Unverified).

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-3 (unretouched hub), V-4 through V-6 described by Valentine with varying date positions; all varieties but the V-4 have a large O. V-4a with repunched 5-unlisted.

V-3 generally comes with an average strike. Weakness is noted at the head, toe and 8 in the date. The pendant lines up just right of the center of the 5's flag. Shield is full and its point is aimed at the flag of the 1. All stars show good definition. Dentils may be weak between 12 and 3 o'clock. On the reverse, the wreath is weak, as is the bow. Legend and mintmark are bold with a large mintmark measuring 1.1 millimeters, placed midway between the bow knot and the left base of the M in DIME.

V-4 generally comes with a weak head, toe and lower portion of the shield. The point of the shield is aimed at the left end of the flag of the 1. The lower portion of Liberty's gown is also somewhat weak, as are most of the dentils. The date is boldly punched and there is strong evidence of a repunched 5, not previously reported. This variety is designated as V-4a. Pendant placement differs from the V-3 on this variety. It lines up with the left side of the flag of the 5. On the reverse, some weakness is evident in the legend at STATES. HALF DIME is bold. The medium mintmark measures 1.0 millimeters and is closer to the bow than the word DIME. Late die states of this variety have been seen with a massive die break from the rim running between M and E in AMERICA through the wreath and into the field.

**SCARCITY:** Common date, except for unretouched hub varieties.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all circulated grades, R3 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 91 (Ranking 51/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 82 (19/21).

## 1857-O
## (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 6.50 | 1.50 | 8.00 |
| F | .85 | 11.00 | 3.00 | 13.75 |
| EF | — | 45.00 | — | 65.00 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 650.00 | 15.00 | 410.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 800.00 |

**COMMENTS:** A high mintage date.

**1857-O (Retouched Hub)**

# 1858

**MINTAGE:** 3,500,000 **PROOFS:** 40-50

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-8 representing various date positions, with the V-5 being the "Short Pole" variety. There is an unlisted variety with a recut 18 which has been assigned V-9 (K.Hill/C.Pilliod).

V-3 comes well struck with a full head, toe and shield and boldly punched date and stars. Pendant lines up with the left side of the flag of the 1. Many specimens of this date have a weak center reverse and it is only occasionally that a fully struck reverse is found.

The V-5 "Short Pole" generally is found with a weak head, toe and shield but boldly punched date and dentils. Lapping of the obverse die caused Ms. Liberty to be holding a short pole with the appearance of her index finger suspending the hat at the finger tip. Pendant is centered over the 5. A perfect reverse, a new unlisted variety (V-9) 1858/18, has the 1 and 8 cut far north and then corrected. The date is centered with the point of the shield aimed at the flag of the 1. Pendant is directly over the right side of the 5. There may be prominent die clashes on the obverse. The only weakness seems to occur at HALF DIME on the reverse.

**SCARCITY:** Common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades, except V5 short pole and V9 recut date which are R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 446 (Ranking 75/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 187 (38/39).

## 1858
## (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | .75 | 4.60 |
| F | .50 | 8.00 | 2.00 | 7.15 |
| EF | — | 40.00 | — | 41.50 |
| MS60 | 1.25 | 225.00 | 15.00 | 180.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 405.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The third most common date in mint state.

1858 Short pole variety (V-5)

# 1858

## (Over Inverted Date)

**MINTAGE:** Included in 1858 **PROOFS:** (?)

**VARIETIES:** Designated Breen 9. Discovered by Jesse Patrick 1963. No Valentine number yet assigned.

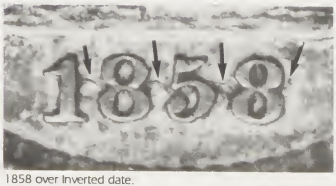
All four digits of the date were originally punched upside down and then corrected. Tops of the inverted punched numerals can be seen slightly above the middle of the corrected date. This date has an average strike with the head, toe and lower portion of shield showing some weakness. Date is boldly punched with all inverted digits evident. The pendant lines up between the 5 and 8, and is closer to the 5. The shield points to the flag of the 1. Stars are strongly struck up. Obverse also has some weakness of dentils at 6 o'clock. Reverse is perfect, but does show some die clashes.

**SCARCITY:** Scarce but can be found with diligent searching.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU R4, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = Included with normal 1858.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 48 reported.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 30.00 | — | 23.00 |
| F | — | 67.50 | — | 55.00 |
| EF | — | 200.00 | — | 185.00 |
| MS60 | — | 750.00 | — | 525.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 975.00 |



1858 over Inverted date.

# 1858
## (Double Date)

**MINTAGE:** Included in 1858. **PROOFS:** (?)

**VARIETIES:** Designated Breen 10. No Valentine number yet assigned.

The date on this variety was first punched much too high with the top of the 1 touching the base and then corrected as were the 858. The Ahwash specimen displays a strong strike with a full head and toe as well as a full shield. Date is boldly punched with strong evidence of the under digits noted. The pendant lines up with the right side of the 5, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Stars are also boldly punched. On the reverse, ALF in HALF and IME in DIME are noticeably weak as is the ribbon portion of the bow.

**SCARCITY:** The Double Date is much scarcer than the Over-inverted Date.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R5, F-VF R5, EF-AU R5, MS R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS Ranking** = Included with normal 1858.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 21 reported.

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | — | — | 35.00 |
| F | — | — | — | 75.00 |
| EF | — | — | — | 250.00 |
| MS60 | — | — | — | 695.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1150.00 |

1858 Double Date

# 1858-O

**MINTAGE:** 1,660,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 "medium" O - high date, V-4 "medium" O - low date, V-2 and V-3 medium placed date - round O. Ahwash described a variety with a large O like the V-1 and V-2, but not the same die. This is designated as a V-5. A new variety which mules the V-1 obverse to a new reverse is designated as a V-6 (J.T. Stanton)

The V-4 with the low compact date has an average strike with weakness at the head, central part of Liberty, toe and lower portion of the shield. The pendant lines up with the right side of the 5 and the shield points to the left side of the 1. This variety has medium lettering in the legend on the reverse, and some specimens may have a die break between S in STATES and O in OF. Valentine described this variety as having a medium O, but is in fact a Large mintmark (1.1mm). Its placement is slightly left of the center of the bow, and is low and closer to the bow than DIME.

The new variety (V-6) is described as follows:

**Obverse**
Strongly struck with a full head, toe and shield as is the date. The shield points to the left end of the flag of the 1, and the pendant lines up with the right side of the 5. There is a die crack off of the base of the rock below the toe to the rim. This is the die of the V-1 described by Valentine. This is also the first 1858-O Half Dime that I have seen that has a "Short Pole." The Short Pole variety has until now been only associated with the 1858. It is the result of lapped dies and, as is the case of the 1858 V-5, the pole extends only two-thirds of the distance to Ms. Liberty's hand, with the hat appearing as suspended on the end of the index finger.

**Reverse**
The reverse has a round Large O mintmark measuring 1.1 millimeters and is centered over the bow knot. It appears to be closer to the left base of the M in DIME. This coin has one of the largest retained die breaks that I have seen on a Seated Half Dime. It measures about 7 millimeters, covering an area from about 5 o'clock to 6:30, and runs from the rim through the A in AMERICA to the wreath, then along the wreath to the bow knot and out through the left ribbon to the rim. It is doubtful that the reverse die that struck this coin lasted much beyond this striking.

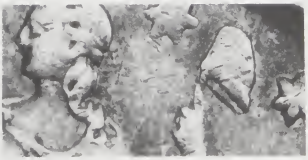
## 1858-O
## (Continued)

**SCARCITY:** A slightly better date.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all circulated grades, low R3 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 91 (Ranking tied for 51/77)
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 87 (20/21).

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | – | 6.50 | 1.00 | 7.00 |
| F | .85 | 11.00 | 3.00 | 12.25 |
| EF | – | 45.00 | – | 65.00 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 515.00 | 15.00 | 270.00 |
| MS63 | – | – | – | 700.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Valentine and Neil described two different size mintmarks for this date, the Medium and Large O. Valentine also referred to a Round O. Since exact measurements were not given, it is hard to verify the distinctions. This area warrants further study.


1858-O V-6 Obverse, short pole area

1858-O V-6 Reverse, retained die break

# 1859

**MINTAGE:** 340,000 **PROOFS:** 60-75 remain.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 with repunched 19, V-2 with low open date, V-3 with repunched 159 and V-4 (new) 1859/1859 (B. Fivaz). V-2 shows no repunching on 18 with the dot on the left upright of the U in UNITED as described by Neil. This variety is strongly struck with a full head and shield. The toe is a little weak. Date and stars are bold. Pendant lines up with the right side of the 5, and the shield points to the left side of the 1. Dentils are fully defined. Perfect reverse.

V-3, has 159 first punched too low and then corrected. The pendant is centered between the 5 and the 9, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Repolishing of the die caused only the 1 and 9's bases to show, with even these eventually disappearing.

The new V-4 variety (1859/1859) shows all four digits repunched. The under digits were originally punched too low and then corrected. The other diagnostics of this variety are the same as the V-3. This possibly suggests that the V-4 is a very early die state of the V-3 or V-1.

**SCARCITY:** Common date, except for the repunched varieties.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all circulated grades, R2 in MS, except the RPD's which are R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 119 (Ranking 58/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 59 (15/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 10.00 | 2.00 | 8.00 |
| F | .50 | 25.00 | 4.50 | 21.00 |
| EF | — | 75.00 | — | 60.00 |
| MS60 | 1.75 | 300.00 | 15.00 | 185.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 600.00 |

Al Blythe

## 1859
## (Continued)

**COMMENTS:** The first year for a new hub was made for coins struck at the Philadelphia Mint. Valentine stated, "The new hub is of slightly lower relief. The stars are sharper pointed and are hollow in the center. The face, hair and drapery show marked differences, the arms are slimmer, the Liberty cap small, the word LIBERTY on shield is larger, the bottom of the base less irregular and projects beyond the foot of Liberty." No change is noted on the reverse.

1859/1859 Repunched date (V-4)

# 1859-O

**MINTAGE:** 560,000 **PROOFS:** None.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-3. Represent position variations of the mintmark. Also a variety with 5 and 9 closed in date and recut stars which is designated V-4 (Ahwash).

V-3 has an average strike with softness in the head, but toe and shield are full. There is weakness in date especially at the bottom of the 9. The area around the date appears to have come from a rusted die. The pendant lines up with the right side of the 5, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. Weak dentils at 12 to 3 o'clock; also weakness in stars 11 through 13. Perfect reverse with the mintmark measuring 1.0 millimeters, and centrally located between the bow knot and the left base of the M in DIME.

**SCARCITY:** A slightly better date.

**Rarity Rating:** R2 in all grades, except MS, which is R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 45 (Ranking tied for 37/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 54 (5/21).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 10.00 | 2.00 | 15.00 |
| F | .60 | 25.00 | 4.50 | 25.00 |
| EF | — | 75.00 | — | 87.50 |
| MS60 | 2.00 | 650.00 | 15.00 | 415.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 800.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The old hub was used on the New Orleans coinage for this date. Breen says that 10 obverses were shipped December 1858 for 1859 use; probably not over two were used, with leftover reverses.

# Transitional Pattern

## 1859 Obverse of 1859 – Reverse of 1860

Photo courtesy of Cathy Dumont/Bowers & Merena, Inc.

**MINTAGE:** PROOF ONLY: 12-15 known specimens.

**VARIETIES:** Designated Judd 232.

**SCARCITY:** Exceedingly rare - R-7.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proof | 185.00 | 10,000.00 | — | — |

**COMMENTS:** Only a very few specimens are known to exist. The last offering I am aware of was in the Norweb Sale, Part 1, October, 1987, where a Proof 63 brought $11,000 at auction. The obverse of this transitional piece has hollow point stars with a high date and the pendant lined up over the right end of the flag of the 5. The shield points to an area to the left of the 1. Neither the obverse nor reverse bear the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

# Transitional Pattern

## 1860 Obverse of 1859 – Reverse of 1860

**MINTAGE:** 100 **PROOFS:** Unverified.

**VARIETIES:** Designated Judd 267.

**SCARCITY:** Rare. Low grade specimens are virtually unknown.

**Rarity Rating:** R-6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 41 (Ranking tied for 35/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 3 reported.

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MS60 | 100.00 | 2750.00 | — | 4000.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 8500.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The obverse of this transitional is the "with stars" type of 1859 and stars are hollow. The pendant on Liberty's gown lines up between the 6 and the 0, and the point of the shield is aimed at the end of the flag of the 1. On the reverse, HALF DIME letters are heavy. This transitional is one of two in the Half Dime series that bear no statutory legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Reports surface periodically regarding the existence of proofs, but I suspect with only 100 coins struck that there was almost no die wear and all coins minted were proof-like and sharply struck.

Though 41 of the original 100 have been certified to date, this is undoubltedly due to its great value. This coin is definitely an R6.

# 1860

## Legend Obverse

**MINTAGE:** 799,000 **PROOFS:** 535

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-3.with variations of date position and thickness of the numbers. V-3a-doubled obverse (Briggs/Blythe) V-3b-1860/1860, V-3c-repunched 1 - new variety. V-3 normal date has a weak head and some softness at the toe. Usually has a full shield and well defined dentils. Date is boldly punched. The legend has weakness at OF and AMER in AMERICA. The pendant on Liberty's skirt is just right of the center of the 6 in the date. Reverse may show some weakness in the wreath and central bow. HALF DIME is not well struck.

V-3a is V-3 with a doubled obverse. This variety is strongly struck with a full head, toe and shield. It has a boldly punched date, well defined legend letters and dentils. The legend is strongly doubled at UNITED. This variety has a perfect reverse with the right ribbon end free of the wreath.

V-3b (1860/1860) is usually strongly struck. All 4 digits of the date were first punched too high and then corrected with the 1 and 0 underdigits very prominent. The pendant on this RPD is just right of the center of the 6 in the date.

V-3c (repunched 1) also comes well struck. Date has slender numerals and placement of the date is midway between the rim and the rock. The 1 is recut with the flag of the first 1 cut too low and corrected. Pendant is slightly left of the ball of the 6. A perfect reverse with both ribbon ends of bow free of the wreath. It is noted that the first S in STATES in the legend is lower than the other letters of that word. This continues through the end of the series.

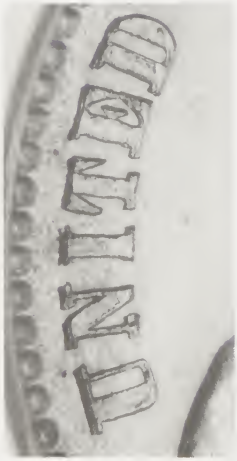
**SCARCITY:** Common date, except for the doubled obverse V-3a, V-3b and V-3c.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades (normal date)
R2 in all grades (V-3a, V-3b, V-3c.)
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 365 (Ranking 71/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 83 (24/39).

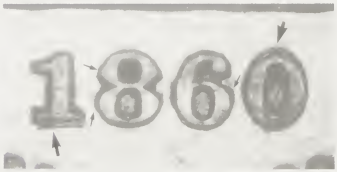
## 1860 Legend Obverse (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 4.35 |
| F | .60 | 7.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 39.50 |
| MS60 | 1.50 | 225.00 | 10.00 | 165.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 305.00 |

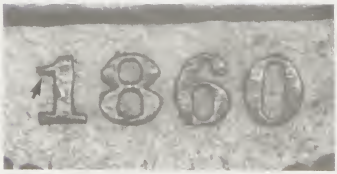
**COMMENTS:** 1860 is the first year of a redesigned obverse and reverse. On the obverse, the central figure of Liberty is smaller than previously seen, 13 stars were eliminated and replaced with the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and the date size was decreased. On the reverse, a large wreath of corn, wheat, maple and oak fills the circumference, and the center has a more compact HALF DIME than in previous years. Mintmarks appear below the wreath until 1871.



1860 Legend Doubled obverse (V-3a)



1860 Legend 1860/1860 (V-3b)



1860 Legend Recut 1 (V-3c)

# 1860-O

**MINTAGE:** 1,060,000 **PROOFS:** 4-5

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-5 represent varying date and mintmark placements.

V-1 is generally softly struck, although the head is full. The toe and lower portion of the shield is usually weak as are the dentils, obverse and reverse. Date often not boldly punched. The pendant is lined up with the right side of the 6. Reverse generally show the stalks at the top of the wreath to be a little weak. The small mintmark is bold, measuring 0.65 millimeters and is centered between the ribbons of the bow beneath the knot. There are also specimens with thin mintmarks.

**SCARCITY:** Common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all circulated grades, R2 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 136 (Ranking tied for 60/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 64 (12/21).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 |
| F | .65 | 8.00 | 4.00 | 15.00 |
| EF | — | 32.50 | — | 50.00 |
| MS60 | 1.50 | 375.00 | 15.00 | 225.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 410.00 |

**COMMENTS:** A relatively high mintage date.

# 1861

**MINTAGE:** 3,361,000 **PROOFS:** 400

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-3 represent many date position variations (42 obverse and 43 reverse dies). V-4 is assigned to the 1861/O; V-5 is assigned to the 1861/O/1; V-6 is assigned to the recently discovered 1861/O doubled obverse and V-7 is assigned to the new 1861 repunched 1.

V-1's are softly struck with a weak head and lower portion of the shield. Date is not boldly punched, and the pendant is centered over the 6. Letters in legend, particularly OF, are weak. Weakness also evident at ALF in HALF as well as the knot in the bow and stalks at the top of the wreath.

V-2's have stronger strikes with a full head, toe and shield. Date also boldly punched and there is full definition of all letters in the legend. Obverse and reverse show heavy die clashing on some specimens. The right end of ribbon bow is close but does not touch, and the left side of the ribbon is recut.

The V-4 1861/0 "Overdate" is controversial, and while it is listed in the 1991 Redbook, there are differences of opinion as to what it is. Tom DeLorey feels that it is not an overdate but merely the result of a defective die punch. This is because the defects that were considered to be remnants of the 0 under the 1 were exactly the same on two different dies despite the random metal movements involved in overdating.

Bill Fivaz is convinced that a four digit logo punch was used to prepare the date, and it was the logo punch that was overdated. In his opinion, there are too many identical features on each of the four varieties of this so-called overdate for each die to have been overdated. A detailed discussion of the specifics is contained in The Gobrecht Collective Volume, No. 3, 1990, p.133 and 134.

Whatever the "1861/0" turns out to be, the recently discovered V-6 Doubled Obverse variety is clearly diferrent. It is strongly struck with minor softness noted at the head. The toe and shield are full. Some weakness was also noted in the dentils at 2 o'clock. The date is boldly punched and doubled on top of all four digits. The pendant falls over the right tip of the 6. The legend is doubled, with the most significant doubling evident on UNITED, toward the rim. The reverse is that of the V-3. Some softness noted at the bow knot as well as the stalks at the top of the wreath.

## 1861
## (Continued)

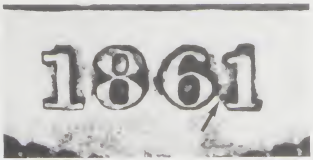
An unlisted variety was recently discovered and is designated V-7. It is like the V-2, but the date placement is closer to the base of the rock. The top of the 1 is 0.05 millimeters from the base and 0.06 millimeters on the V-2. Date is bold with the pendant placement the same as on the V-1 and V-2. The final 1 in the date is recut with the underdigit remnants prominently showing above the base of the 1. Perfect reverse with both ends free, but the left one is close.

**SCARCITY:** Common date, except for so-called overdates.

**Rarity Rating:** Normal Date: R1 in all grades, 1861/0 R3 in all grades except MS which is low R6.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 311 (Ranking 69/77) Normal Date.
= 2 (Ranking 5/77) 1861/0.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 118 (32/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.25 | 4.35 |
| F | .50 | 7.00 | 2.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 39.50 |
| MS60 | 1.50 | 175.00 | 10.00 | 155.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 275.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Another high mintage date.



1861/0 Enlargement of date (V-5)

1861/0 "UNITED" doubled (V-6)

# 1862

**MINTAGE:** 1,492,550 **PROOFS:** 550

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-6, with varying date positions. V-4 has an uphill date, there is also a double date similar to the V-5, except for doubling, with no V number currently assigned.

The normal date originally described by Neil is well struck with a full head, toe and shield. All letters of the legend and the dentils are well defined. The date is boldly punched with the numerals widely spaced. Pendant lines up with the left side of the 6. On the reverse, the left ribbon end is distant from the wreath. There are no weaknesses noted.

The V-4 (Uphill Date) is not as rare as Breen and Neil believed, though quite scarce. Heavy die clash marks on the obverse of this variety took it out of mint use early. This variety has an average strike and minor weakness at the head, toe and shield. The legend and dentils are well defined. The date is boldly punched and runs uphill from left to right. The pendant lines up with the right side of the 6. Weakness noted on the reverse at bow knot and upper portions of the ribbon.

The double date (1862/1862) is most like the V-5 and is strongly struck. With a full head and toe and only a very minor weakness of the lower left part of the shield. There are well defined letters in the legend. The date is boldly punched with the under digits most obvious at the 1 and less so at 862. The pendant lines up just right of center of the 6. Other than very early die states, the obverse and reverse are heavily clashed. The reverse of this variety exhibits some weakness in the wreath at 3 o'clock. Later die states show a die crack off of the leaf to rim at 5 o'clock; also one off of ribbon at 6 o 'clock. I have seen a double date specimen owned by R. Sebenick of Michigan which has no die clashes (very early die state) and also has a different undescribed reverse die with both ribbon ends distant, the right more so than left. Also, the end of the right ribbon on this particular coin is faint which is probably due to excessive die polishing. This coin is undesignated at present.

## 1862
## (Continued)

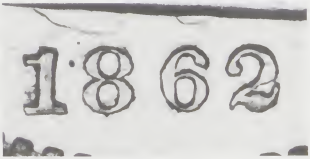
**SCARCITY:** Common date, except for the V-4 and V-5 which are scarce.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades, except for Uphill Date (R4) and Double Date (R5).
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 380 (Ranking 72/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 86 (26/39).
**LSCC Variety Survey:** 3 reported - Double Date.

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.25 | 4.35 |
| F | .50 | 7.00 | 2 50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 39.50 |
| MS60 | 1.50 | 175.00 | 10.00 | 155.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 290.00 |

**COMMENTS:** There were 21 dies used in the production of this date. Breen points out that "some 430 proofs sold with sets, most others melted."

1862 Double Date (V-5)



1862 Uphill Date (V-4)

# 1863

**MINTAGE:** 18,460 PROOFS: 460

**VARIETIES:** V-1 - business strikes and proofs.

The business strikes come from the proof dies which was not uncommon for dates of this era with low mintages. The business strikes and proofs come only with the repunched 18 and technically should be called 1863/18. There is no repunching on the restrike which was made about 1870. The business strike is well struck with a full head, toe and shield. The legend letters are all fully defined. Some weakness of dentils between 4 and 6 o'clock on obverse. Date is bold with under digits plainly showing. The pendant attached to Liberty's skirt is directly over the center of the 6 in the date. Perfect reverse.

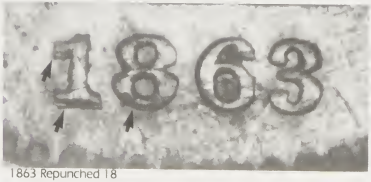
**SCARCITY:** One of the key dates of the series. Business Strikes are much scarcer than proofs.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 102 (Ranking 54/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 45 (7/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 100.00 | 8.00 | 120.00 |
| F | 1.50 | 200.00 | 15.00 | 210.00 |
| EF | — | 350.00 | — | 375.00 |
| MS60 | 4.00 | 700.00 | 45.00 | 650.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1200.00 |

**COMMENTS:** A surprisingly high number of mint state specimens have made their way to the grading services. Undoubtedly due to the high value of this date. We can expect that with time the date will rise in the scarcity ranking.



1863 Repunched 18

# 1863-S

**MINTAGE:** 100,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1.

**SCARCITY:** This date is usually found in low grades. In higher grades, It is very scarce.

**Rarity Rating:** R3 in circulated grades, R4 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 48 (Ranking 40/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 44 (2/11).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 |
| F | 2.50 | 25.00 | 15.00 | 33.00 |
| EF | — | 110.00 | — | 100.00 |
| MS60 | 8.50 | 675.00 | 60.00 | 550.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1225.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This is the first date in the Half Dime series that bears the San Francisco mintmark, and that mint was to continue minting Half Dimes through 1873. Breen points out that over one-half of the known S mint survivors of the 1863-69 period were made into jewelry ornaments. He also points out that until 1968 no circulated specimens were known of many of the S mint dates. At that time several hoards surfaced including the 1863-S, 1864-S and 1866-S.

The 1863-S comes strongly struck with a full head, toe and shield, and full definition of all dentils and all letters of the legend. Date is boldly punched. Pendant is lined up with the right side of the 6. Reverse is perfect with a bold mintmark which measures 0.7 millimeters, and lines up with the bow knot, centrally located between the bow ribbons.

# 1864

**MINTAGE:** 48,470 **PROOFS:** 470

**VARIETIES:** V-1 with low date and heavy 4. Neil described two varieties but it is difficult from his description to tell if they are different from the V-1. Also, restrikes noted below.

High grade specimens are strongly struck and have a full head and toe, but with some softness in the lower left portion of the shield. Dentils are well defined as are all letters of the legend. The date is bold and the pendant lines up just right of the 6. Obverse and reverse are heavily die clashed. The reverse displays a softness in the upper left portion of the wreath. The ribbon ends are both distant from the wreath. Also some business strikes may have the reverse of 1863 muled to the obverse. These are identified by a fine die crack from the rim to the wreath at right

**SCARCITY:** High grade business strike specimens are very scarce. Available in MS for a price.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU high R4, MS high R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 37 (Ranking tied for 31/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 44 (6/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 200.00 | — | 175.00 |
| F | 6.00 | 350.00 | — | 330.00 |
| EF | — | 650.00 | — | 575.00 |
| MS60 | 22.50 | 1400.00 | — | 1450.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 2500.00 |

**COMMENTS:** The 1864 is one of the key dates of the series. The mintage figure listed above is highly suspect. Ahwash theorized that if mintage ratios of Half Dimes that existed for 1863, 1865, 1866 and 1867 prevailed for 1864, the true mintage would be about 14,500, not 48,000. Roy Ash, LSCC member, did an auction catalog census of this date in 1977 and found fewer than 56 Business Strikes advertised, with 20 of those being uncirculated. Breen projected that the true total is 80-100 survivors in all grades.

There is also an 1864 Restrike in 3 different metals (Judd 378, 379 & 380) with a high date which slants up to the right. The D in UNITED is open. Reverse is of the 1870 proof. Struck in copper, aluminum and nickel around 1870.

# 1864-S

**MINTAGE:** 90,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1. Open date, heavy 4.

The early die states of this date show a repunched 1. They are a little softly struck with almost a full head. Toe is somewhat weak along with some weakness in the lower part of the shield. All letters of the legend are bold. The dentils are well defined, and the date is boldly punched with the 4 appearing heavier than the other numerals. The pendant is lined up between the 6 and 4, and closer to the 6. On the reverse, there is some weakness in the wreath at 3 o'clock. Strong mintmark measuring 0.7 millimeters, slightly left of center in relation to the bow knot. Bottom serif of S mintmark significantly larger than upper serif. Ribbon ends touch wreath.

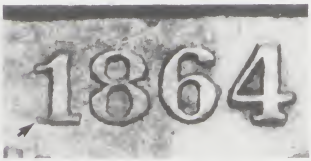
**SCARCITY:** This date is usually found in low grades. High grade specimens are very scarce.

**Rarity Rating:** Low circulated grades are R3, EF-AU R4, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 16 (Ranking tied for 17/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 39 (1/11).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 22.50 | 9.00 | 29.00 |
| F | 4.00 | 65.00 | 22.50 | 60.00 |
| EF | — | 200.00 | — | 220.00 |
| MS60 | 10.00 | 825.00 | 90.00 | 750.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1500.00 |

**COMMENTS:** A hoard of about 14 specimens surfaced in 1971 with some uncirculated and others cleaned enough to fall slightly short of mint state (Breen).




1864-S Enlargement of repunched date

# 1865

**MINTAGE:** 13,500 **PROOFS:** 500

**VARIETIES:** Valentine only mentioned a Proof (V-1). Business strikes have also been made from this die. All coins show recut 1 on obverse and a Doubled Die Reverse with the most apparent doubling seen at HA in HALF and DI in DIME, as well as leaf points.

The business strikes generally come well struck on obverse and have shallow dentils that are weak on the reverse. The reverse also comes with die clashes. The business strikes came from the same pair of dies used for the proofs, as evidenced by identical diagnostics on the obverse of each. For example,

- A die gouge off of left-hand side of T in STATES to rim
- Minor doubling throughout obverse legend.
- Partially filled 865 in date and lump on upper right-hand side of 8.
- Pendant is over right side of 6
- A recut 1, the same as the example of a Proof (Breen 3113) in his encyclopedia.

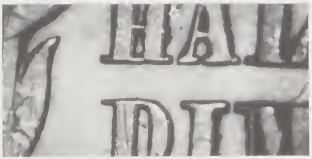
**SCARCITY:** Extremely tough to find in all grades. The scarcest of the Civil War dates.

**Rarity Rating:** R5 all grades but high R5 in MS.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 38 (Ranking 34/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 33 (2/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 200.00 | 8.00 | 170.00 |
| F | 2.25 | 300.00 | 15.00 | 315.00 |
| EF | — | 500.00 | — | 560.00 |
| MS60 | 7.00 | 1000.00 | 45.00 | 950.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1850.00 |

## 1865
## (Continued)

**COMMENTS:** Business Strikes of this date come with reverse die rotations, the greatest seen to date being 45 degrees clockwise. High value has undoubtedly caused a surprisingly high number of mint state specimens to be certified.



1865 Business Strike – Doubled die reverse

1865 Business Strike – Recut 1

# 1865-S

**MINTAGE:** 120,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (compact, high date), V-2 (normal date with no repunching), Breen 3, redesignated V-3 (different than V-1 date placement), V-4 (repunched date) D. Winter.

V-4 comes somewhat of a softly struck with nearly a full head, some weakness in the toe area, and also in the lower left part of the shield. The dentils are weak on most of the obverse. Letters of the legend are also softly struck, particularly OF and A in AMERICA. The date is a little mushy with under digits as described in the preceding paragraph. The pendant is lined up with the extreme right-hand side of the 6, and the shield points to the flag of the 1. The reverse shows softness in the wreath in many places, almost non-existent dentils, and a distinct S mintmark which is centered and low beneath the bow. The mintmark measures 0.7 millimeters, tilts slightly right, and is equidistant from rim and bow knot. The left ribbon end touches the wreath and the right end is close, but does not touch.

There is also a variety similiar to V-1 which has a repunched date, but is much different than the V-4, and also has a different reverse. To date undesignated.

**SCARCITY:** Much scarcer than its mintage implies. The 1865/863-S Repunched Date (V-4) is a high R-5 or low R-6 in high grade.

**Rarity Rating: RPD:** G-VG R4, F-VF R4, EF-AU R5, MS R6.
**Normal Date:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R4, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 6 (Ranking tied for 9/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking :** 62 (10/11) .
**LSCC Variety Survey :** 13 reported (1865/863-S).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.50 | 6.00 | 12.00 |
| F | 2.75 | 25.00 | 15.00 | 27.50 |
| EF | — | 110.00 | — | 75.00 |
| MS60 | 7.00 | 675.00 | 60.00 | 900.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1675.00 |

## 1865-S
## (Continued)

**COMMENTS:** The V-4 has often been called an overdate but is actually just a repunched date. "The 1 in the date shows evidence of triple punching while the 8 is recut to its left, and the top of the 6 is lightly recut. The 5, under magnification, does show evidence of recutting. This situation is compounded by a bulge near the ball of this last digit which I believe to be either a clash mark or some swelling of the die through the logo type." (Doug Winter, LSCC Collective, Vol.3, 1990, p. 136)

1865-S Rrepunched date (V-4)

# 1866

**MINTAGE:** 10,725 **PROOFS:** 725

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (Proof) and business strikes from proof dies. All have repunched 18

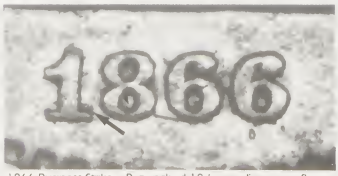
The V-1 business strike is strongly struck with a full head and toe. There is some weakness on the left side of the shield. Dentils are fully defined, obverse and reverse. The pendant on Liberty's skirt is centered between the first and second 6. All letters of the legend are bold as is the date. The 18 are repunched.

**SCARCITY:** Tough date, especially in higher grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R4 in all circulated grades. High R5 in MS
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 34 (Ranking 29/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 33 (3/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 150.00 | 8.00 | 165.00 |
| F | 1.25 | 275.00 | 15.00 | 275.00 |
| EF | — | 450.00 | — | 450.00 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 700.00 | 45.00 | 875.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1600.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Breen described the repunched date as proof only, but there seem to be business strikes from proof dies as well. This is another one of those low mintage, valuable Civil War P-mints which have found their way to the grading services in surprisingly high numbers.




1866 Business Strike – Repunched 18 (same die as proof)

# 1866-S

**MINTAGE:** 120,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 blundered die. V-1 is somewhat softly struck. This is evident on the head, toe and lower portion of the shield. Some weakness is also noted in the legend, particularly in STATES and OF. Date is boldly punched. The pendant is centered between the first and second 6. The reverse also exhibits some softness in the upper right portion of the wreath and also the dentils at 9 o'clock. It has a fat mintmark which is small in size (0.8 mm) and partially filled. Placement is closer to the right ribbon than the left.

**SCARCITY:** Scarce, especially in higher grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R4, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 21 (Ranking 22/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 50 (3/11).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.50 | 4.50 | 12.00 |
| F | 2.50 | 25.00 | 9.00 | 27.50 |
| EF | — | 110.00 | — | 95.00 |
| MS60 | 7.50 | 650.00 | 50.00 | 825.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1650.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Breen notes in his encyclopedia that a Blundered Obverse Die has an extra 8 punched just left of the pendant. In 1983, Ahwash believed both the 1 and 8 were first struck up into the base to the right of the shield, then corrected. These might well be the same variety. To date, all specimens examined of this date and mintmark are of the Blundered Obverse variety.

# 1867

**MINTAGE:** 8,625 **PROOFS:** 625

**VARIETIES:** V-1 and V-2 represent variations in date placement. Business strikes and proofs known from both dies.

The V-1 business strike is strongly struck with a full head and only minor softness of the toe and lower left portion of the shield. The dentils and all letters of the legend are fully defined. There is minor die clashing on both the obverse and reverse. The pendant is to the left of center of the 6 in the date, and the final A in AMERICA is low. There is weakness noted on the reverse in the upper left portion of the wreath, and the left ribbon end touches the wreath while the right one is close, but free.

**SCARCITY:** Low mintage, very scarce in all grades.

**Rarity Rating:** R4 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 50 (Ranking 41/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 29 (1/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 200.00 | 8.00 | 300.00 |
| F | 1.75 | 400.00 | 15.00 | 410.00 |
| EF | — | 600.00 | — | 550.00 |
| MS60 | 4.50 | 900.00 | 45.00 | 1025.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1750.00 |

**COMMENTS:** A key date, the 1867 business strike has the lowest mintage of any regular issue in the half dime series. The relatively high number of certified mint state coins is undoubtedly due to its high value. With time this date too will rise in the scarcity ranking as more of the less scarcer dates are submitted.

The business strike almost always comes with the die break from the rim through the last S in STATES. There is at least one high grade exception to this.

# 1867-S

**MINTAGE:** 120,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (normal) and V-1a (Recut 1). Both have a small S.

V-1a (Repunched 1) comes with an average strike with nearly a full head and toe. There is softness in the lower left portion of the shield. Dentils are not well defined around most of the obverse and reverse rims. All letters in legend are well defined. The date is moderately well punched. The first 1 was originally punched too high, then corrected. The pendant is lined up over the right side of the 6 in the date. The reverse shows some softness in the wreath's upper right. There is a partially filled fat mint mark which is centered under the bow knot, tilted slightly right, and closer to the right ribbon than the left. The mintmark measures 0.8 millimeters.

**SCARCITY:** Scarce, particularly in MS.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R4, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS =** 16 (Ranking tied for 17/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 50 (4/11).

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 12.50 | 4.00 | 14.50 |
| F | 2.00 | 25.00 | 9.00 | 32.50 |
| EF | — | 110.00 | — | 100.00 |
| MS60 | 6.00 | 650.00 | 45.00 | 395.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 825.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This date is usually found in lower grades.

# 1868

**MINTAGE:** 89,200 **PROOFS:** 600.

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (proof), V-2 (business strike) with a different date placement.

This date, and in particular the V-2, is strongly struck with a full head and some minor softness at the toe and the lower part of the wreath. Well defined dentils, obverse and reverse. The legend letters are bold. Date is not boldly punched. The pendant is lined up directly over the right side of the 6 in the date. The only weakness noted on the reverse is in the upper left part of the wreath.

**SCARCITY:** A better date, which is usually available.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R3, MS R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 26 (Ranking tied for 24/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 40 (4/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 30.00 | 3.50 | 25.00 |
| F | 1.00 | 70.00 | 7.50 | 80.00 |
| EF | — | 225.00 | — | 230.00 |
| MS60 | 2.50 | 525.00 | 25.00 | 475.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1150.00 |

# 1868-S

**MINTAGE:** 280,000 **PROOFS:** None

**VARIETIES:** V-1 (V-1a, V-1b & V-1c were later die states of the V-1).

Breen notes in his encyclopedia that just one pair of dies was used until they wore down and shattered. A variety discovered by Neil (N-4) (Valentine number unclear) has an average strike. Early die states show heavy die clashing on the obverse. Liberty's head is nearly fully struck. There is softness in the toe area and on the reverse; some minor softness in the lower left part of the wreath. Early die states also show good definition to all letters in the legend, but with die deterioration this becomes less so. The same is true of the dentils. The pendant is just right of center of the 6 in the date. The reverse, even with early die states, shows the beginnings of die cracks off of each ribbon end of the bow. Later die states show an additional small crack off of the right ribbon through the mintmark to the rim. The Neil 4 has a clear, non-filled mintmark centered under the bow knot, slightly closer to the right ribbon. Its placement is closer to the bow knot than to the rim. It measures 0.75 millimeters from top to bottom. Very late die states display strong die cracks in these same areas plus one up each side of the coin indicating the die was close to shattering.

**SCARCITY:** A better date, especially in high grade.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R3, MS R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 36 (30/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 59 (8/11).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 8.00 | 3.00 | 5.25 |
| F | 1.50 | 15.00 | 6.00 | 8.15 |
| EF | — | 50.00 | — | 65.00 |
| MS60 | 4.00 | 200.00 | 20.00 | 425.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 1175.00 |

# 1869

**MINTAGE:** 208,600 **PROOFS:** 600

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-4 represent variations of date positions. V-1 and V-2 also come in proof with the latter having a recut date.

V-4 has a strong strike, and Liberty's head and toe are nearly full. The shield's left half is usually quite weak. Dentils are fully defined as is the legend. Many of the letters in the legend are blocked. The date is very boldly punched and centered between the rim and the rock. It also runs slightly uphill toward rock. Pendant is lined up over the right side of the 6. Weakness is noted in two places on the reverse: at the knot of the bow and the upper left portion of the wreath.

**SCARCITY:** A better date.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R3, MS R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 72 (Ranking 45/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 50 (9/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 6.00 | 3.00 | 5.85 |
| F | .75 | 12.00 | 5.00 | 17.50 |
| EF | — | 35.00 | — | 52.50 |
| MS60 | 2.75 | 175.00 | 15.00 | 320.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 650.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Valentine provided inadequate descriptions of varieties for the period 1869-1873, sometimes making it difficult to attribute them. Many new varieties have also been discovered since his research.

# 1869-S

**MINTAGE:** 230,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 and V-2; V-2 with recut 18 (Ahwash) and now designated V-3. Doubled obverse legend and large mintmark (Ahwash) now designated V-4.

Valentine and Neil provided only very brief descriptions of varieties they observed, as commented on in the previous plate. This date was no exception. A specimen was examined which did not fit either the V-1 or V-2 specification. It probably best fits the Ahwash description in his supplement to Valentine on page 152. This variety has most of the legend letters blocked, and the first A in AMERICA filled. The date has a repunched 18 with the first digits having been punched a little too high and then corrected. The entire final 1 is leaning left in relation to the 869. The pendant is slightly over to the right of the 6 and the date is centered with the point of the shield over the flag of the 1. The strike is only average. Ms. Liberty's head and toe are nearly fully struck. The shield is very weak on the portion below Ms. Liberty. Weak dentils, obverse and reverse. On the reverse, both the upper left and right portions of the wreath are weak. The left end of the ribbon touches the wreath, whereas the right end is close but does not. The mintmark is partially filled, and is centered under the bow knot equidistant from the left and right ribbon, but closer to the bow knot than the rim. The mintmark measures 0.7 millimeters.

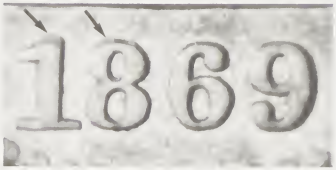
A similiar variety recently cherry picked by Chris Pilliod has the S mintmark measuring 0.7 millimeters. On the obverse, the date is boldly struck with no evidence of recutting. The base of the 1 nearly touches the 8 with the 6 more distant from the 8, and an even space between the 6 and the 9. Pendant is centered over the 6. There appears to be a die chip to the right of the shield and directly above the pendant that looks like the upper half of an S, but is not. The legend letters are blocked, and the first A in AMERICA is filled. On the reverse, the S mintmark is not filled, there is evidence of minor machine doubling in the lower right portion of the wreath, and the right end of the ribbon is close, but free.

## 1869-S
## (Continued)

**SCARCITY:** Scarce, especially in high grades.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R3, F-VF R3, EF-AU R4, MS R5.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 15 (Ranking tied for 15/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 55 (7/11).

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 8.00 | 2.50 | 5.15 |
| F | 1.25 | 15.00 | 5.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 50.00 | — | 55.00 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 225.00 | 20.00 | 365.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 710.00 |



1869-S Repunched 18 of date (V-3)

1869-S Die chip in skirt

# 1870

**MINTAGE:** 536,000 **PROOFS:** 1,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-6 representing various date positions.
Repunched 1 with compact, medium placed date, with reverse of V-5 (Ahwash). Now designated V-7.

**SCARCITY:** Common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 136 (Ranking tied for 60/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 60 (17/39).

| **VALUE:** | **Red Book 1947** | **Red Book 1991** | **CW Trends 1963** | **CW Trends 1991** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.75 |
| F | .65 | 7.00 | 3.00 | 8.60 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 35.00 |
| MS60 | 1.75 | 175.00 | 12.00 | 180.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 340.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This is the first date where the top of the D in UNITED is beginning to break away. The strike of the V-1 is strong with a full head and toe. The shield, however, is very soft on the entire lower portion. The legend and dentils are bold as is the date. Pendant on Liberty's skirt is directly over the 7 in the date. On the reverse, the wreath is weak at its upper left and right portions.

# 1870-S

Photo Courtesy Cathy Dumont/Bowers & Merena, Inc.

**MINTAGE:** 1

**VARIETIES:** None.

**SCARCITY:** "The Rarest of the Rare" - Q. David Bowers

**Rarity Rating:** R-8.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS Ranking** = One, certified by PCGS.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** None.

**VALUE:** The current owner is in the unique position of being able to name his own price

**COMMENTS:** The following is reprinted with permission of its author, Dave Bowers (Gobrecht Journal, Collective Volume No. 3, 1990, p. 139-140):

"The unique 1870-S Half Dime was originally catalogued for our September 9, 1985, sale by Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc. Our staff grades it as Choice AU55 and describes it as follows:

**Obverse:** The obverse has a partially proof-like surface reflected by fields which give evidence of having been struck from slightly bulged dies. A delicate light golden toning of exquisite beauty is evident. The sharpness of striking is typical for a Business Strike of the era. The denticles in some portions are lightly defined, and there is a slight weakness where the right hand of Miss Liberty meets the shield. The date, lettering and other features are sharp and bold. There is no evidence of any die breaks or die wear. On the upper left arm of Miss Liberty there is a microscopic raised line, indicating that there was a mark either on the coining die or the hub, which serves to distinguish the issue.

## 1870-S
## (Continued)

**Reverse:** The reverse is likewise proof-like and has a delicate gold toning, and this side is mingled with just a whisper of gunmetal blue. The sharpness is typical for Business Strikes of this era. There is a slight weakness at the upper left of the wreath, the S mintmark is sharp and distinct and is "filled" and some denticles are lightly impressed."

Note that the above unique specimen was graded MS 63 by PCGS and was on the market for $1,500,000 in December 1991.

# 1871

**MINTAGE:** 1,873,960 **PROOFS:** 960

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-5 represent various date positions. V-2 muled with V-5 reverse now designated V-6; also a V-4 with double die reverse

V-1 is strongly struck with a full head, toe and shield, and with good definition of dentils on most of the obverse and reverse. The legend is recut at UNITED and also at OF AMERICA. Date is boldly punched. The pendant lines up with the right side of the 7. The D in UNITED is open. The reverse shows some weakness at the upper left and right portions of the wreath. It should be noted that later die states will have a weak head and shield, as well as some weakness in the legend at STA of STATES and softness at LF in HALF on the reverse.

V-3 has a large, bold, compact date with both 1's close but equally distant from the dentils, and each is of a different shape at the flag. Date is low in relation to the base, and the 7 and 1 touch. The pendant is directly over the right most part of the 7. The D in UNITED is closed and not defective. Shield points to the top of the 1. One specimen reviewed has what appears to be a die chip below the base directly on a line with Liberty's heel. The reverse may show weakness in AL of HALF and I in DIME and the right ribbon end is clear and distant, with the left ribbon end clear and close.

This date is an unremarkable one except for a subtle double die reverse (in leaves of wreath) noted on a V-4 specimen.

**SCARCITY:** Common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 266 (Ranking 68/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 88 (27/39).

## 1871
## (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.25 | 4.70 |
| F | .60 | 7.00 | 2.50 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 30.00 |
| MS60 | 1.50 | 175.00 | 12.50 | 170.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 285.00 |

**COMMENTS:** This date is one of the higher mintage dates near the end of the Half Dime series. Also, from this date forward, the D is open in UNITED, with minor exceptions. Many of the proofs of this date, as well as 1872 and 1873, were melted in July 1873.

# 1871-S

**MINTAGE:** 161,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1.

Strongly struck with a full head, toe and shield, and some softness in the dentils around parts of the obverse and reverse. The date is boldly punched with first and last 1's having different shapes. The first 1 has a longer curved flag while the flag on the second 1 is shorter with a more pronounced curve. The pendant on Liberty's skirt is slightly right of the center of the 7.

Minor softness may be evident in the letter definition of STATES; otherwise, the legend is well defined. The working die was corrected manually as the D in UNITED is normal and closed. The reverse shows weakness in ALF in HALF and IME in DIME. There is softness in the ribbon portion of the bow, especially the right ribbon which is only partially there. The mintmark is partially filled, located above the bow, and is closer to DIME than to the bow. It is slightly right of center and measures 0.7 millimeters. Later die states show a network of die cracks on the lower portion of the reverse and, in particular, a significant one from the right rim into a wreath leaf.

**SCARCITY:** A tougher date to locate in high grade.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R2, F-VF R2, EF-AU R3, MS R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 55 (Ranking tied for 42/77)
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 59 (9/11).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 10.00 | 9.00 | 8.50 |
| F | 4.00 | 30.00 | 18.00 | 32.00 |
| EF | — | 90.00 | — | 65.00 |
| MS60 | 15.00 | 425.00 | 75.00 | 245.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 625.00 |

**COMMENTS:** There were four pairs of dies used for this date. The reverse is the same as that used for the unique 1870-S. Very early die states show a repunched 1.

# 1872

**(Normal Date)**

**Double Die Obverse**

**MINTAGE:** 2,947,950 **PROOFS:** 950

**VARIETIES:** V-1 through V-5, represent variations in date placement in relation to the rock.
V-6 Double Die Obverse - C. and M. Leber (1983)
V-7 2nd Double Die Obverse - S. Jones (1990).

This date has been struck with rusted dies, obverse and reverse. Evidence of this is plainly visible on the V-3. They are strongly struck with a full head, and very minor softness in the lower left part of the shield. Dentils strong on obverse; some softness of them on reverse. Legend letters bold with D in UNITED open at the top. Date boldly punched and pendant is right of the center of the 7. The only weakness on the reverse was at knot in bow. Both ribbon ends touch.

The doubled die obverse (V-6) is not strongly struck. Weakness may exist at upper part of head, also on toe. The shield has triple stripes, and the folds of Liberty's gown to the right of the shield are doubled, as is the outline of the shield. The legend is doubled with the most significant doubling at AMERICA. The pendant is centered over the 7. The reverse shows softness in the wreath at upper left, and the right ribbon end is close but does not touch the wreath.

## 1872
## (Continued)

There is a second variety of the 1872 DDO (V-7) which S. Jones described as being weakly struck at the head, and with evidence of a second 2 in the last figure of the date. There is also doubling of nearly the entire figure of Liberty with stronger evidence of doubling below the foot at the base, tip of her nose, and in the vicinity of the cap. The shield lines are tripled as described above.

**SCARCITY:** Common date, except for the Double Die Obverse discovered by C. and M. Leber. It is considered scarce.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades, except for double die obverse which is R4.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 224 (Ranking 65/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 129 (34/39).
**LSCC Variety Survey:** 23 Double Die Obverses reported.

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.25 | 4.70 |
| F | .60 | 7.00 | 2.50 | 6.50 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 30.00 |
| MS60 | 1.50 | 175.00 | 12 50 | 160.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 285.00 |

**COMMENTS:** A high mintage date.

1872 Doubled die obverse Triple stripes & doubling (V-6)

1872 Doubled die obverse. "AMERICA" doubled (V-6)

# 1872-S

## Mintmark in Wreath

**MINTAGE:** 475,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 and V-2, represent variations of date placement. Both have small mintmarks.

There were four obverses used with leftover reverses. Coining occurred between January and June 1872. V-1 is strongly struck with a full head, and the toe is a little weak. Shield is full. Dentils well defined, obverse and reverse. The date is boldly punched, and the pendant is centered over the 7. All legend letters are bold. There are heavy die clashes on the obverse. Perfect reverse with the ribbon ends not touching the wreath; the right one being more distant. The S mintmark measures 0.7 millimeters, is partially filled, and is placed high and closer to DIME than the bow, slightly right of center.

**SCARCITY:** Common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 548 (Ranking 77/77). (Grading services do not distinguish between in wreath and below wreath varieties.)
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 54 (6/11).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 5.30 |
| F | .75 | 7.00 | 3.75 | 8.60 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 30.00 |
| MS60 | 3.50 | 175.00 | 15.00 | 160.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 285.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Valentine described this mintmark as large, but it is obviously small based on the foregoing measurements.

# 1872-S

## Mintmark Below Wreath

**MINTAGE:** 362,000

**VARIETIES:** V-3 and V-4 are with variations of date placement. Also, a blundered obverse die (Ahwash). All mintmarks are small S.
V-5. New variety - Blundered Obverse
Micro S mintmark - Mentioned by S. Jones (unverified)

V-3 has a strong strike with full head, toe and shield. Dentils are well defined with the exception of the area below the date which is boldly punched. Pendant is lined up left of the center of the 7. All letters of the legend are bold. The reverse is perfect with bold S mintmark, measuring 0.8 millimeters, partially filled, and centered below the bow knot, equidistant from it and the rim. Both ribbon ends do not touch the wreath, the right one being more distant.

As described by Walter Breen, "the blundered obverse has the date triple punched in final position; traces of a fourth date show above, and next to the skirt pendant are traces of a fifth 1 and 8. This variety is most likely the V-4 described by Valentine. The final resting place of the date is low with the pendant centered over the 7." This variety is strongly struck in all aspects. Reverse has no weaknesses. Mintmark is a very small S, measuring 0.6 millimeters. Left ribbon end touches wreath, while right ribbon is free.

## 1872-S Mintmark Below Wreath (Continued)

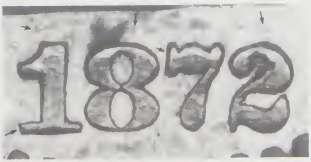
A new variety (V-5) was discovered by Ken Hill at the 1991 ANA Centennial Convention in Chicago. This is another blundered obverse unlike the variety described directly above. This coin is strongly struck with a full head and toe, and well defined legend. Shield is weak at the lower left. Also weakness in dentils on obverse except for area between 4 and 6 o'clock. The pendant is centered over the 7, and the date is strongly punched. There are additional number(s) punched in the skirt/rock area to the left of the pendant. As to what this might be is open to speculation. Some individuals who have seen this piece say that there is one number and it is part of a 2; others say there is an inverted 1. Still others say there are two numbers, the lower portion being the bottom of another 7 and the upper part being the right-hand side of the lower loop of an 8. Take your pick! The reverse of this coin was perfect with the mintmark measuring 0.7 millimeters and positioned left of center of the bow knot. Two specimens of this variety are known, thus far. It is premature to assign a rarity rating at this time. There are others out there.

**SCARCITY:** Tougher than 1872-S "in wreath" date.

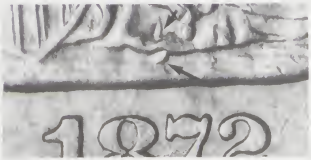
The Blundered Obverse Triple Punched Date is very scarce. I am aware of at least 12. Two of the V-5 are known to date. There are others out there.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades, except for triple date R4 and the V-5 (unknown).
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS Ranking** = Included in 1872-S, in wreath.
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 51 (5/11).

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 2.00 | 5.30 |
| F | 1.00 | 7.00 | 4.00 | 8.00 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 30.00 |
| MS60 | 3.75 | 175.00 | 17.50 | 160.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 295.00 |



1872-S Mintmark below wreath. Enlargement of triple punched date (most like V-4)



1872-S Mintmark below wreath. Enlargement of blundered date (V-5)

# 1873

**MINTAGE:** 712,600 **PROOFS:** 600

**VARIETIES:** V-1 and V-2 represent date placement variations.

V-2 comes strongly struck. It has a full head, toe and shield. The date is boldly punched with a closed 3 that is a little lower than the other numerals. Pendant is lined up to the left of the center of the 7. All of the legend letters are bold, as are the dentils. I have seen specimens where the entire obverse die has very pronounced die polishing lines. Perfect reverse, except for some softness in the upper left part of the wreath. The right end of the ribbon is just clear of the wreath.

**SCARCITY:** Common date in low grades, a bit tougher as the grade gets higher.

**Rarity Rating:** G-VG R1, F-VF R1, EF-AU R2, MS R3.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 82 (Ranking 48/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 82 (23/39).

**VALUE:**

| | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 1.50 | 4.70 |
| F | .60 | 7.00 | 3.00 | 6.50 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 30.00 |
| MS60 | 2.00 | 175.00 | 15.00 | 160.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 285.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Many of the 600 proofs were melted along with some business strikes in July 1873. There is no estimate of the survivors.

# 1873-S

**MINTAGE:** 324,000

**VARIETIES:** V-1 Large mintmark
V-2 Large mintmark, die crack through date, unlisted (Fivaz).

This is the final date in the Liberty Seated Half Dime series. Valentine described the V-1 as having a large mintmark, and while it measures 0.6 millimeters from top to bottom, by earlier definition making it small, an exception should be made in this case. The mintmark is distinct and unclogged and measures 0.5 mm wide and 0.8 mm diagonally; therefore it appears larger than the S mintmarks used for 1872 date which preceded this date.

The V-2 even in early die states shows the beginnings of a die crack through the bottom of the date and is fully struck in all aspects including head, toe and shield. Date is boldly punched with pendant centered over the 7. There is also a faint die crack left of Liberty's foot starting at the base of the rock and running up toward her right knee. On the reverse there is some softness at upper left part of the wreath. The mintmark is the same as the V-1, but is distant from the knot in the bow and slightly left of center. Both ribbon ends are distant from the wreath. This is probably a different reverse than on the V-1.

**SCARCITY:** Common date.

**Rarity Rating:** R1 in all grades.
**Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS** = 170 (Ranking tied for 63/77).
**LSCC Survey Ranking:** 68 (11/11).

## 1873-S
## (Continued)

| VALUE: | Red Book 1947 | Red Book 1991 | CW Trends 1963 | CW Trends 1991 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | — | 5.00 | 2.25 | 7.50 |
| F | 1.00 | 7.00 | 5.00 | 15.00 |
| EF | — | 30.00 | — | 45.00 |
| MS60 | 3.00 | 175.00 | 15.00 | 170.00 |
| MS63 | — | — | — | 300.00 |

**COMMENTS:** Comes well struck with nice luster.

1873-S Enlargement of mintmark (V-1)

# Appendices

## Appendix A

# GLOSSARY

**ANACS** Coin grading service located in Columbus, Ohio. The June 1991 Population Report was used to tally the population of ANACS Certified Half Dimes.

**Business Strike** A coin which was minted for public circulation.

**Blundered Die** One containing an error in entry of one or more letters or numeral punches; most often the error is corrected but remains partially visible.

**Coin World Trends 1963 and 1991** Refers to the retail prices listed by half dime date in COIN WORLD, a numismatic newspaper published by Amos Press Inc of Sidney, Ohio.

**Circulated** Coins released to the general public. Also, showing signs of wear through use in commerce.

**Clash Marks** From dies striking each other at normal striking force without a planchet between them.

**Cud** A lump (raised area) near the rim on a coin struck from a die where a piece has broken off

**CW Trends** COIN WORLD TRENDS. Considered as a retail price guide.

**DDO** Double Die Obverse.

**DDR** Double Die Reverse.

**Dentils (Denticles)** Ornaments on obverse and reverse of coin shaped like small teeth; end may be rectangular, rounded or with dull points.

**Die** That which stamps a design into a planchet. So that the devices and inscriptions will be in relief and readable, the die is incuse.

**Die State** A stage in the life of a die from new to worn, clashed, cracked, chipped, rusted or broken.

**Doubled Die** One which received one of its several blows from hub or device punched in accidentally imperfect alignment: Wexler (1984).

**Experimental Coin** Test of a new metal or alloy, denomination or manufacturing method.

**Incuse** Letters or devices sunk below the surface.

**LSCC** Liberty Seated Collectors Club. Founded in 1973 as a non-profit organization to encourage, promote and dispense numismatic knowledge of Liberty Seated Coins. Publishes the Gobrecht Journal on a quarterly basis and a collective volume every five years.

**Mintmark** Letter or symbol identifying the mint of origin of a coin. On federal coins, mint marks are normally punched by hand into each working die at the Philadelphia Mint.

**Mule** Producing a coin by combining two dies not meant to be together.

**NGC** Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America. A coin grading service located in Parsippany, New Jersey. The June 1991 population report was used to tally the population of NGC certified half dimes.

**1947** Refers to prices listed in the 1947 (1st edition) of the Red Book. An indication of 1947 retail prices.

**1991** Refers to prices listed in the 1991 (44th edition) of the Red Book. An indication of retail prices.

**O Mint** New Orleans Mint.

**Obverse** The "heads" side of a coin. Liberty seated on a rock is on this side.

**OMS** Off Metal Striking. Impression from regular dies on a blank of other than the authorized metal.

**Overdate** A variety in which at least one digit of a date has been changed either for mint economy or to correct a blunder.

**Pattern** Proposed coin design not adopted. Often comes in other than the proposed metals such as copper or aluminum.

**P Mint** Philadelphia Mint.

**PCGS** Professional Coin Grading Service. An independent grading and certification service located in Newport Beach, California. The PCGS Population Report of June 1991 was used to tally the population of PCGS certified half dimes in the date-by-date descriptions.

**Piece de Caprice** A coin designed on a whim or to create a rarity, not out of any urgency for a circulating medium. Examples include the 1859 and 1860 Half Dimes without UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**P/L** Prooflike.

**Proof** Specially minted coin, normally given two or more blows from the dies to bring up the designs more sharply than on production coins. Normally minted on burnished blanks from burnished dies.

**Prooflike** Struck from brilliantly polished dies on a blank which may or may not also have been polished before striking.

**Punch** Tool for impressing a design element into a die.

**Ranking** The ranking of the total number of mint state PCGS, NGC, ANACS certified coins among the dates of the series. A rank of 1/59 indicates that in this series, the date had the lowest number of mint state coins certified by the three grading services population reports reviewed. See Appendix B. The ranking of the total number of Seated Half Dimes reported by the Liberty Seated Collectors Club of the dates in the series. Example: 56(3/29) means that there were 56 pieces reported and date ranked 3rd of 29 dates. See Appendix C.

**Rarity Rating** The scarcity of the coin relative to others in the series. See Chapter 3.

**Red Book** "A GUIDE BOOK OF UNITED STATES COINS" by R.S. Yeoman, published by Western Publishing Company, Inc., of Racine, Wisconsin. It is considered to be a retail price guide.

**Restrike** Generic term for any coin minted after the year of its date. The term is NOT applied to production coins. Examples of Liberty Seated restrikes are the 1863 and 1864 Half Dimes struck about 1870-71. Proof restrikes come in copper and aluminum.

**Reverse** The "tails" side of a coin. The denomination "HALF DIME" is on this side.

**RPD** Repunched Date. A date that shows signs of earlier numerals underneath, indicating that the date was punched in more than once. Often the original date position was out of line, and even upside down, in the case of the 1858 Over Inverted Date. The entire date may be double punched, or just one or several of the numerals.

**RPM** Repunched Mintmark. The mintmark has been punched into the die twice resulting in a doubled mintmark on the coin. Since the doubling appears on the die itself, identical specimens are produced and the variety is considered collectable.

**S Mint** San Francisco Mint.

**Shelf Doubling** Also called machine doubling, or ejection doubling Refers to doubled mintmarks and other details of the coin as well caused by a torsion between the two dies during ejection of the planchet. The doubled detail looks like a thin shelf attached to the mintmark or whatever detail of the coin that appears to be doubled.

**Slider** Current slang for a coin that is about uncirculated (AU) but is close to and possibly saleable as mint state, particularly after cleaning and recoloring. Exercise caution and know how to grade.

**Transitional** A design adopted in a subsequent year, or a design of which one side is current, the other later adopted, though the combination may not appear on later production coins. For example: 1840-0 Large O, Large Letters, Open Bud Reverse.

**Triple Stripes** Three lines of vertical shading per stripe. Example 1872 Doubled Obverse Die - Shield.

**Variety** Any coin which is recognizably different in dies from another of the same design, type, date and mint.

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The following characteristics inherent in the marketplace undermine the accuracy of this Report

1. Inexpensive coins which are not submitted for certification appear scarce but are not
2. Numismatic coin certification services are predominantly utilized for investment grade coins
3. Often certified coins are cracked out of holders without notice to the grading service, therefore, computer tallies utilized to publish grading reports may be misleading
4. Rarity is only one factor which must be weighed in determining economic value of a numismatic coin

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## Appendix B

# RELATIVE RARITY RATINGS OF CERTIFIED COINS

**TABLE 1**. The number and rank of Seated Half Dimes **in all mint state grades** by PCGS, NGC and ANACS combined (as of June, 1991).

| DATE | NUMBER | RANKING | DATE | NUMBER | RANKING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1840-O WD | 0 | 1 | 1863-S | 48 | 40 |
| 1844-O | 0 | 1 | 1867 | 50 | 41 |
| 1846 | 0 | 1 | 1851 | 55 | 42 |
| 1858/inv. date | 0 | 1 | 1871-S | 55 | 42 |
| 1861/0 | 2 | 5 | 1853 NA | 63 | 44 |
| 1853-0 NA | 3 | 6 | 1869 | 72 | 45 |
| 1838-0 NS | 4 | 7 | 1842 | 79 | 46 |
| 1849-0 | 5 | 8 | 1847 | 80 | 47 |
| 1842-0 | 6 | 9 | 1873 | 82 | 48 |
| 1865-S | 6 | 9 | 1841 | 84 | 49 |
| 1840-0 ND | 7 | 11 | 1843 | 88 | 50 |
| 1852-0 | 7 | 11 | 1858-0 | 91 | 51 |
| 1841-0 | 8 | 13 | 1857-0 | 91 | 51 |
| 1839-0 | 14 | 14 | 1844 | 101 | 53 |
| 1869-S | 15 | 15 | 1863 | 102 | 54 |
| 1850-0 | 15 | 15 | 1845 | 102 | 54 |
| 1867-S | 16 | 17 | 1852 | 112 | 56 |
| 1864-S | 16 | 17 | 1850 | 114 | 57 |
| 1856-0 | 17 | 19 | 1859 | 119 | 58 |
| 1849/6 | 18 | 20 | 1839 | 134 | 59 |
| 1848 Large Date | 19 | 21 | 1870 | 136 | 60 |
| 1866-S | 21 | 22 | 1860-0 | 136 | 60 |
| 1849/8 | 23 | 23 | 1840 ND | 144 | 62 |
| 1868 | 26 | 24 | 1873-S | 170 | 63 |
| 1838 Small Stars | 26 | 24 | 1855 | 170 | 63 |
| 1848 | 28 | 26 | 1872 | 224 | 65 |
| 1840 Drapery | 28 | 26 | 1856 | 225 | 66 |
| 1855-0 | 32 | 28 | 1854 | 239 | 67 |
| 1866 | 34 | 29 | 1871 | 266 | 68 |
| 1868-S | 36 | 30 | 1861 | 311 | 69 |
| 1854-0 Arrows | 37 | 31 | 1838 ND | 314 | 70 |
| 1864 | 37 | 31 | 1860 | 365 | 71 |
| 1849 | 37 | 31 | 1862 | 380 | 72 |
| 1865 | 38 | 34 | 1857 | 392 | 73 |
| 1860 Trans. | 41 | 35 | 1853 AR | 441 | 74 |
| 1853-0 Arrows | 41 | 35 | 1858 | 446 | 75 |
| 1851-0 | 45 | 37 | 1837 NS | 453 | 76 |
| 1859-0 | 45 | 37 | 1872-S | 548 | 77 |
| 1848-0 | 47 | 39 | | | |

NOTE: These numbers may be higher than the actual number of coins, as some of the coins may have been submitted (and therefore counted) more than once. Also, the unique 1870-S is not included.

**TABLE 2**. The number and rank of Seated Half Dimes **in all circulated grades** by PCGS, NGC and ANACS combined (as of June, 1991).

| DATE | NUMBER | RANKING | DATE | NUMBER | RANKING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1848 LD | 0 | 1 | 1844 | 8 | 39 |
| 1849/8 | 0 | 1 | 1846 | 8 | 39 |
| 1860 Trans. | 0 | 1 | 1847 | 8 | 39 |
| 1861/0 | 0 | 1 | 1849-0 | 8 | 39 |
| 1864 | 0 | 1 | 1851-0 | 8 | 39 |
| 1864-S | 1 | 6 | 1852 | 8 | 39 |
| 1848-0 | 1 | 6 | 1854-0 | 8 | 39 |
| 1868 | 1 | 6 | 1863 | 8 | 39 |
| 1867 | 2 | 9 | 1850-0 | 9 | 48 |
| 1838 Sm. Stars | 2 | 9 | 1873 | 9 | 48 |
| 1849/6 | 2 | 9 | 1842 | 10 | 50 |
| 1840-0 ND | 2 | 9 | 1849 | 10 | 50 |
| 1840-0 Drapery | 3 | 14 | 1858-0 | 10 | 50 |
| 1853 No Arrows | 3 | 14 | 1859 | 10 | 50 |
| 1856-0 | 3 | 14 | 1860 | 10 | 50 |
| 1855-0 | 3 | 14 | 1859-0 | 11 | 55 |
| 1863-S | 3 | 14 | 1868-S | 11 | 55 |
| 1865 | 3 | 14 | 1871-S | 13 | 57 |
| 1866 | 3 | 14 | 1860-0 | 14 | 58 |
| 1869 | 3 | 14 | 1840 Drapery | 15 | 59 |
| 1842-0 | 4 | 21 | 1839 | 17 | 60 |
| 1858 Inv. Date | 4 | 21 | 1870 | 17 | 60 |
| 1869-S | 4 | 21 | 1840 ND | 18 | 62 |
| 1841-0 | 5 | 24 | 1873-S | 18 | 62 |
| 1844-0 | 5 | 24 | 1843 | 20 | 64 |
| 1851 | 5 | 24 | 1845 | 20 | 64 |
| 1852-0 | 5 | 24 | 1855 | 22 | 66 |
| 1853-0 NA | 5 | 24 | 1862 | 26 | 67 |
| 1865-S | 5 | 24 | 1861 | 28 | 68 |
| 1866-S | 5 | 24 | 1872 | 32 | 69 |
| 1838-0 NS | 6 | 31 | 1838 | 33 | 70 |
| 1841 | 6 | 31 | 1871 | 33 | 70 |
| 1856 | 6 | 31 | 1858 | 37 | 72 |
| 1867-S | 6 | 31 | 1857 | 39 | 73 |
| 1848 | 7 | 35 | 1854 | 45 | 74 |
| 1850 | 7 | 35 | 1837 NS | 66 | 75 |
| 1857-0 | 7 | 35 | 1872-S | 66 | 75 |
| 1853-0 | 7 | 35 | 1853 Arrows | 92 | 77 |
| 1839-0 | 8 | 39 | | | |

NOTE: These numbers are not indicative of scarcity because, among other things, it is often not worth while to submit common dates in circulated grades to the grading services.

## Appendix C

# LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIME SURVEY RESULTS

The following has been reprinted in part with permission granted by the authors of this survey

### LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIME SURVEY RESULTS: SECTION I

Robert Spangler, Charles Woodruff and Roy Ash

There are many scarce and rare dates within the Liberty Seated Half Dime series. With the exception of the 1870-S, for which only one specimen is currently known, all of the dates in the series can be found with a little luck. Nevertheless, the completion of a high grade set in XF or better condition is still a very difficult task. To determine the availability of Half Dimes by date and grade, a survey was conducted of LSCC member holdings. We hope this information will be helpful to members when making purchasing decisions and when evaluating their collection.

#### Possible Bias in the Survey

While a survey of this kind is informative, there are built-in biases that one should consider when interpreting the results:

1) One collector, one coin: Most collectors do not purchase coins in proportion to the number available. Once a collector has an example of a given date or variety, he seldom buys another. However, a collector may purchase additional examples of a specific date if he thinks it is a scarce issue and hopes to use the duplicates for trade, resale or investment purposes. For example, a survey of a single complete set would indicate that all dates are equally available. Because of duplicates, some scarcer dates may even appear common.
2) Upgrading: Some collectors purchase the rarer dates in low grade when they have the opportunity to buy them. They later upgrade these rare dates and keep the lower grade examples. For the common dates, however, the collector may wait until a nice example in the desired grade can be found.
3) Varieties: For dates with many interesting varieties, such as the 1839-0, 1844-0, 1848, 1849, 1858 and 1865-S, collectors often have an example of each variety. Since the collector may have only a single example of a date without varieties, dates with more than one listed variety may appear to be more common than they really are.
4) Hoarding: Some collectors reported large numbers of particular dates. They were either studying the varieties for that year, had a particular reason for liking the date, or were investing in the date. We did not feel these groups should be eliminated from the survey results, but we did make note of them in the tabulation.
5) Limited Sampling: For a series as available as Half Dimes, the coins reported by members are only a small percentage of the total pieces in existence. Since LSCC members probably control a higher percentage of the available pieces for the scarcer dates, these key dates will appear more available relative to the common dates than they really are. For example, 41 coins were reported for the 1853-0 NA and 82 for the 1873 date. But from this information, one should **not** conclude that the 1853-0 NA is only twice as rare as the 1873.

In general, when interpreting the results of this survey, one must remember that it is not a random sampling of the available Half Dimes. It is biased by each member's goals and buying habits.(Note from the author of this Half Dime book: One should also keep in mind that not every member reported his or her holdings, for reasons known only to the owner.)

#### Survey Results

There were 102 respondents reporting 5,229 coins for Section I of the survey listing dates and major varieties in the Half Dime series. Results from Section II listing all of the known varieties in the series were reported in the Gobrecht Journal. Also presented here are tables for each mint ranking the dates by the total

number of coins reported and giving the median grade for each date.

Hoarding played a significant role in the number of pieces reported by the respondents in the survey. For 26 of the 39 Philadelphia dates, more than 10% of the coins reported for that date were reported by an individual collector. These hoards were not all reported by the same individual, but they do give an indication that some collectors own multiple examples of many of the dates in the series. For the fifteen dates that top the Philadelphia issues in terms of rarity, hoards of this magnitude were reported for the dates: 1868, 1846, 1864, 1863, 1842, 1869 and 1840 WD. For the New Orleans issues, 10% or greater hoards were reported for 18 of the 21 dates. Only for the 1849-0, 1851-0 and 1860-0 dates were 10% hoards **not** reported for these branch mint issues. In contrast, for only 3 of the 11 San Francisco dates were 10% hoards reported. The three San Francisco dates for which these hoards were reported are: 1863-S, 1871-S and 1873-S.

### Philadelphia Half Dimes

In our survey, the 1867 date had the fewest number of pieces reported with 1865 and 1866 close behind. The 1868, 1846, 1864 and 1863 dates also had low reported numbers. We expected the six rare Civil War issues from 1863 to 1868 and the 1846 to have low numbers reported since they are the key dates for the series. In fact, these seven dates all fell within the ten least reported issues for the survey The low median grade for 1846 is consistent with our experience. In fact, 1846 probably still remains one of the most difficult issues to acquire in any grade.

One might have also expected the 1864 to be placed slightly higher in the rankings based on previously published information and market value. One possible explanation is that LSCC members have gone to greater lengths to obtain this particular date. The relative tally of all the rare Civil War issues may be evidence that supports the speculation by Kam Ahwash on page 44 of the **First Collective Volume** that the true mintage for 1864 was around 14,000. Survey results also suggest that the 1868 is a very scarce date. However, it may be that 1868 is simply not as highly sought after as the super low mintage issues from 1863 through 1867.

The low numbers for 1842 and 1869 are surprising and probably anomalous. The lower than expected frequencies for 1851 and 1852 may reflect the widespread melting of silver coinage in 1853. Our experience indicates that these four dates are not difficult to obtain and probably belong in the middle of the pack. The 1840 WD and 1853 NA are popular Half Dimes that can usually be found with a little searching.

The low reported numbers for the common Philadelphia minted Half Dimes relative to New Orleans and San Francisco issues probably reflect member buying habits The branch mint Half Dimes have been thought to be underpriced in the past. Many collectors and investors were purchasing them because they were considered to be good buys in the numismatic market With the exception of the six rare Civil War issues, the 1846 and possibly the 1853 NA and 1840 WD issues, collectors were apt to wait for nice example of the Philadelphia minted Half Dimes before purchasing pieces for their collections.

The relative grade proportions of the rare Civil War issues in non-proof condition has been a long standing issue of interest to collectors. Since there is some earlier research available for comparison, 1864 is an interesting date to study. In 1977, Roy Ash published a study based on 26 months of numismatic advertisements that appears on pages 97-98 of the **First Collective Volume** of the **Journal** in which he concluded that about 75% of all available 1864 specimens were either G-VF or Unc. He found that examples of this issue in grades from F-AU were much more difficult to locate. This bimodal distribution can be seen in our results with the exception that Roy's study had nearly five times as many UNC examples. This difference is probably caused by the fact that many of the UNC examples are now owned by investors who are not members of the LSCC.

An example of the grade distribution for all Philadelphia minted Civil War issues from 1863 to 1868 in non-proof condition shows the following:

| G | VG | F | VF | XF | AU | UNC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17% | 11% | 11% | 15% | 20% | 15% | 11% |

If we assume that the UNCs are understated by a factor of about 5, the percentages for the circulated grades would be reduced and the relative frequency of the F to AU grades would be about 45%.

**TABLE 3**. Philadelphia Mint Issues

| RANK | DATE | TOTAL # | MEDIAN GRADE/NUMERICAL GRADE* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1867 | 29 | Upper EF(45) |
| 2 | 1865 | 33 | Upper VF(35) |
| 3 | 1866 | 33 | Lower AU(50) |
| 4 | 1868 | 40 | Upper VF(35) |
| 5 | 1846 | 43 | Middle F(15) |
| 6 | 1864 | 44 | Upper VF(35) |
| 7 | 1863 | 45 | Upper VF(35) |
| 8 | 1842 | 46 | Upper VF(35) |
| 9 | 1869 | 50 | Upper VF(35) |
| 10 | 1840 WD | 51 | Middle VF(30) |
| 11 | 1853 NA | 56 | Lower VF(20) |
| 12 | 1852 | 56 | Middle VF(30) |
| 13 | 1851 | 56 | Middle VF(30) |
| 14 | 1841 | 56 | Upper VF(35) |
| 15 | 1859 | 59 | Upper VF(35) |
| 16 | 1839 | 60 | Upper VF(35) |
| 17 | 1870 | 60 | Lower EF(40) |
| 18 | 1850 | 66 | Middle VF(30) |
| 19 | 1840 ND | 66 | Lower EF(40) |
| 20 | 1855 | 73 | Lower VF(20) |
| 21 | 1844 | 73 | Upper VF(35) |
| 22 | 1847 | 81 | Middle VF(30) |
| 23 | 1873 | 82 | Lower VF(20) |
| 24 | 1860 | 83 | Lower EF(40) |
| 25 | 1843 | 86 | Upper VF(35) |
| 26 | 1862 | 86 | Lower EF(40) |
| 27 | 1871 | 88 | Upper VF(35) |
| 28 | 1856 | 103 | Lower VF(20) |
| 29 | 1837 | 107 | Lower VF(20) |
| 30 | 1845 | 109 | Lower EF(40) |
| 31 | 1838 | 117 | Upper VF(35) |
| 32 | 1861 | 118 | Upper VF(35) |
| 33 | 1848 | 124 | Middle VF(30) |
| 34 | 1872 | 129 | Upper VF(35) |
| 35 | 1854 | 131 | Lower VF(20) |
| 36 | 1857 | 131 | Middle VF(30) |
| 37 | 1853 WA | 175 | Middle VF(30) |
| 38 | 1858 | 187 | Lower VF(20) |
| 39 | 1849 | 193 | Middle VF(30) |

* The median grade is the grade of the middle coin for that date with the coins ranked by increasing numerical grade. In past surveys done by the LSCC, the average grade was calculated by the sum of the numerical grades divided by the total number of coins. For example, if one date had 5 pieces listed in G-4, 3 in VF-8, 3 in F-12, 3 in VF-25, 3 in EF-40, 1 in AU-50 and 1 in MS-63, the median grade would be F-12 while the average grade would be VF-20. Since many collectors want to know how their coins rank against the typical examples of each date, and wish to evaluate their chances of assembling a set in a uniform grade, the median grade is presented in this survey. Each grade is divided into the lower third, middle third and upper third.

## New Orleans Half Dimes

The results of the survey for New Orleans Half Dimes were surprising. The high numbers for the 1844-O, 1838-O and 1840-O WD issues were not expected. This is partly an effect due to hoarding. The low median grade for these dates was anticipated. It was common for members to report two examples of these dates, a low grade piece and a higher grade one. This suggests that many members initially purchased a low grade example, upgraded it and kept the lower grade coin. The rarity of the 1853-O NA Half Dime has long been known and this date is one of the keys to completing the series. The low reported numbers for 1855-O and 1859-O might suggest they are sleepers. However, the authors believe these dates are not as scarce as the survey suggests. The low median grades for 1852-O and 1849-O are consistent with the authors experience. This higher than expected median grade could have been caused by articles in the Journal informing members to look for and purchase nice pieces of this date. The four most common dates, 1853-O WA, 1857-O, 1858-O and 1939-O are as expected.

In general, the median grade for New Orleans minted Half Dimes is lower than the ones minted in Philadelphia and San Francisco. This was probably caused by the following: New Orleans Half Dimes were more widely circulated since Half Dimes traded for half a bit or 6 1/4 cents in the early West. Also, more Philadelphia Half Dimes were saved because most collectors lived in the East at this time, and mintmark collecting did not become popular until the beginning of the twentieth century.

## San Francisco Half Dimes

The mintage figures for many of the San Francisco Half Dimes are relatively low. These Half Dimes circulated in a frontier setting and many were heavily used. A large number of these pieces were mounted and used as buttons.

In our survey, most of the Civil War dates showed up with low reported totals, especially the 1864-S and 1863-S. The lower placement than expected for the 1865-S could be due to many collectors purchasing both varieties for the year. Not unexpectedly, the ultimate rarity was the unique 1870-S with zero pieces reported. Apparently the one known specimen is not in the hands of a club member who responded to the survey.

## Conclusion

As Kam Ahwash stated on page 31 of the First Collective Volume, the Half Dime series is a good first series for Liberty Seated collectors because it is the most available and least expensive to complete. This fact is pointed out by the number of complete and near complete sets reported by the 102 respondents.

Eighteen collectors reported complete sets, not counting the 1870-S date as part of the Half Dime set. One of these collectors was two coins shy of having two complete sets. Furthermore, one collector was missing only one coin in the set, three collectors were missing two, two collectors were missing three, and one collector was missing five. The number of complete sets was quite high, especially considering that not all of the respondents were trying to complete a set. In conclusion, a complete Half Dime collection is an obtainable goal for most members, while a set in high grade is still an extreme challenge. This may be one reason why Half Dimes have always been an attractive series to collect.

**TABLE 4**. New Orleans Mint Issues

| RANK | DATE | TOTAL # | MEDIAN GRADE/NUMERICAL GRADE* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1853-0 NA | 41 | Lower VF(20) |
| 2 | 1855-0 | 51 | Lower VF(20) |
| 3 | 1842-0 | 53 | Middle VF(30) |
| 4 | 1849-0 | 54 | Upper F(18) |
| 5 | 1859-0 | 54 | Middle VF(30) |
| 6 | 1852-0 | 55 | Lower F(12) |
| 7 | 1838-0 | 60 | Upper VF(10) |
| 8 | 1851-0 | 60 | Lower VF(20) |
| 9 | 1840-0 WD | 62 | Middle F(15) |
| 10 | 1850-0 | 63 | Upper F(18) |
| 11 | 1856-0 | 64 | Middle VF(30) |
| 12 | 1860-0 | 64 | Lower EF(40) |
| 13 | 1841-0 | 67 | Upper F(18) |
| 14 | 1848-0 | 69 | Upper F(18) |
| 15 | 1840-0 ND | 69 | Lower VF(20) |
| 16 | 1854-0 | 71 | Upper F(18) |
| 17 | 1844-0 | 73 | Middle VG(9) |
| 18 | 1853-0 WA | 80 | Upper F(18) |
| 19 | 1857-0 | 82 | Middle VF(30) |
| 20 | 1858-0 | 87 | Lower VF(20) |
| 21 | 1839-0 | 134 | Lower VF(20) |

**TABLE 5**. San Francisco Mint Issues

| RANK | DATE | TOTAL # | MEDIAN GRADE/NUMERICAL GRADE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1864-S | 39 | Lower EF(40) |
| 2 | 1863-S | 44 | Middle VF(30) |
| 3 | 1866-S | 50 | Upper VF(35) |
| 4 | 1867-S | 50 | Lower EF(40) |
| 5 | 1872-S BB | 51 | Middle EF(42) |
| 6 | 1872-S AB | 54 | Middle EF(42) |
| 7 | 1869-S | 55 | Lower VF(20) |
| 8 | 1868-S | 59 | Upper VF(35) |
| 9 | 1871-S | 59 | Lower EF(40) |
| 10 | 1865-S | 62 | Upper VF(35) |
| 11 | 1873-S | 68 | Lower EF(40) |

## LIBERTY SEATED HALF DIME SURVEY RESULTS: SECTION II

Robert Spangler, Charles Woodruff and Roy Ash

The Liberty Seated Half Dime series is a rich series for those who relish varieties. Copies of Valentine's **United States Half Dimes**, the **Gobrecht Journals**, and a keen eye for varieties can lead to many interesting and exciting finds. In the fall of 1987, a survey was conducted among LSCC members to determine the availability of some of the Half Dime varieties. We hope that the information obtained will be useful to members when making purchasing decisions and when evaluating their collections.

The survey is not meant to be a comprehensive study of all of the important and rare varieties. Nor is it intended to identify them as true overdates, repunched dates, or pieces struck from defective dies. We leave it to future authors to thrash out such issues as to cause, origin and significance of each variety. The chosen varieties were included because they were described by Valentine or by LSCC members in the **Journal**. A few others were included as a result of expressed interest from club members to us.

Any future survey should include additional varieties The following varieties were suggested by some of the respondents: 1839-0 Recut 19 (V-2, 1842 Shattered Reverse (V-1a), 1842 Shattered Reverse (V-2), 1848/7/6, 1856/4, 1856/1856-0 (**Gobrecht Journal** #39, pgs. 25-27), 1866-S 18 in rock (**Collective Volume II**, pg. 77), 1868-S Shattered Reverse (Neil-4), 1869-S Recut 18 and the Small O, Medium O, and Large O varieties for more of the New Orleans Half Dimes. More journal articles with photographs are needed on these varieties.

### Specific Observations and Comments

**1837:** There are three Valentine varieties that are classified as a Large Date and three that are a Small Date. The Large Dates have a curved top 1 in the date and the Small Dates have a flat top 1. The Large Date varieties had a slightly lower total and a lower median grade.

**1838:** The Small Stars variety appears to represent only a fraction of the total pieces for 1838, but it is by no means elusive. In our experience, many dealers do not properly attribute this variety Members should check for stars shaped like asterisks before purchasing an attributed example of this variety

**1838-0:** V-2 appears to be scarcer than V-1, but the median grade is higher for the V-2 This higher median grade might be a bias caused by the low reported numbers Additionally, the V-2 variety is difficult to grade on the obverse due to die damage

**1839-0:** This date has many interesting varieties. The rarest is the Large O The number reported for this variety was higher than we expected. In our experience, this variety is quite difficult to obtain in any grade. All other varieties appear to be available.

**1840-0 ND:** The open buds variety appears to be scarcer than the closed buds. The open buds variety can be found, but it may take a little searching.

**1843:** The 1843/1843 variety appears to be available.

**1844:** Claims by some dealers that the 1844 recut date is scarce are not supported by the high number of reported examples. In fact, it might be the most common die variety for the year However, our results might be biased by collectors looking especially for this interesting variety.

**1844-0:** There are comparable numbers reported for the Small O and Large O varieties. However, Kam Ahwash believed that the Large O was scarcer. The Small O, Non-rotated Reverse, appears to be tough, especially in higher grades.

**1845:** Walter Breen states in his Half Dime supplement that Newcomer's inventory claimed only two examples of the V-5 were known and that it was a rare variety. The total of 36 reported of this variety shows that Newcomer's estimate was far too low.

**1848:** The Large Date variety is not scarce despite claims to the contrary. This variety is also commonly misattributed by dealers. The date must overlap the rock. The 1848/1848 variety appears to be scarcer.

**1849:** These overdates are particularly popular. All varieties appear to be available. One collector alone reported 46 of the 168 attributed for this year.

**1858:** The total for the Doubled Date variety reflects that it is more difficult to locate than the Inverted Date.

**1858-0:** The Shattered Obverse variety appears to be scarce, particularly in higher grades.

**1859 Transitional:** There were no examples reported for this proof only issue.

**1860 Transitional:** One of the examples we included in the MS column was reported as a proof. To the best of our knowledge, there were no proofs issued. We were unable to confirm the reported proof or to determine if it was an error in filling out the survey.

Many respondents to this survey did not fill out the varieties for 1860, 1861 and 1862. This may indicate a lack of interest in these issues or confusion in attributing these somewhat subtle varieties. Perhaps more research and photographic documentation would alleviate this problem. It is interesting to note that the **Red Book**, and more recently **Coin World Trends**, recognize a generic 1861/0 variety. Neither distinguishes among the subvarieties.

**1860:** Kam Ahwash suggested that approximately twenty 1860/60 examples were known. Ten were reported in this survey.

**1861:** Kam considered the 1861/0/1 variety to be the scarcest of the 1861 varieties. With the possible exception of the 1861/1860 low date, all of the listed varieties for 1861 appear to be roughly equivalent.

**1862:** Kam considered the 1862/1862 Half Dime to be quite scarce. However, he said he had seen more of these than the 1860 and 1861 varieties discussed within his article. Of all the varieties included in this survey, the scarcity and low median grade of this issue was the biggest surprise. However, since very little has been reported on this variety, it is probably too early to form a concrete opinion on its rarity.

**1865-S:** Over 40% of the attributed 1865-S Half Dimes were 1865/63-S. This suggests the overdate is not the rare item it was once thought to be.

**1872:** The Doubled Die is another variety that appeared with higher frequency than might have been expected from earlier writings. About one-third of the attributed 1872 Half Dimes were reported to be this variety.

## Conclusion

There are many interesting varieties with the Liberty Seated Half Dime series. Studying them can add to the joy of collecting Half Dimes. Most of these varieties are available to those who search for them. However, a few can be quite elusive. This is what makes variety collecting exciting.

**TABLE 6** LSCC Variety Survey Results

| | | GRADE | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DATE** | **VARIETY** | **G** | **VG** | **F** | **VF** | **EF** | **AU** | **MS** | **TOTAL** |
| 1837 | Small Date | 6 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 42 |
| 1837 | Large Date | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 30 |
| 1838 | Small Stars (V-1 & V-2) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 18 |
| 1838-0 | V-1 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 36 |
| 1838-0 | V-2 Rusted Die | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| 1839-0 | Large O (V-1) | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 1839-0 | Shattered Reverse (V-2b) | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| 1839-0 | Badly Cracked Reverse | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| 1840-0 | ND, Open Buds | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 |
| 1840-0 | Closed Buds | 8 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 42 |
| 1843 | 1843/1843 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| 1844 | Recut Date | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 28 |
| 1844-0 | Large O | 14 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 30 |
| 1844-0 | Small O Rotated Reverse | 6 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 1844-0 | Small O Nonrotated Rev. | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| 1845 | V-5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 9 | 0 | 36 |
| 1848 | 1848/1848 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 14 |
| 1848 | Large Date (V-1) | 2 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 34 |
| 1849 | 1849/6 (V-2) | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 13 | 3 | 54 |
| 1849 | 1849/8 (V-4 & V-5) | 8 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 47 |
| 1858 | Inverted Date | 7 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 48 |
| 1858 | Double Date | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 21 |
| 1858-0 | Shattered Obverse | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 1859 | Transitional | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 0 |
| 1860 | Transitional | – | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | 3 |
| 1860 | 1860/1860 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 10 |
| 1861 | 1861/0/1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| 1861/60 | Date Centered | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| 1861/60 | Date Low | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 1861 | 1861/0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| 1862 | 1862/1862 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 1865-S | 1865/63-S | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| 1872 | Doubled Die | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 23 |

## Appendix D

# JUDD REGULAR DIES, TRIAL PIECES & PATTERN HALF DIMES

**1863** Regular Dies Trial Piece. Restrikes exist.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 323 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 324 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

**1864** Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 378 | Copper, reeded edge | R6 |
| Judd 379 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R8 |
| Judd 380 | Nickel, reeded edge | R8 |

Restrikes exist from a worn die in which the top of the D in UNITED is open and date slants to the right.

**1865** Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 420 | Copper, reeded edge | R8 |

**1867** Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 586 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |

**1868** Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 637 | Copper, plain edge | R7 |
| Judd 638 | Nickel, plain edge | R7 |
| Judd 639 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

**1869** Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 692 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 693 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 694 | Nickel, reeded edge | R8 |
| Judd 695 | Nickel, plain edge | R8 |

**1870** Obverse: The Barber Design; Reverse: 5 cents in wreath of cotton and corn.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 809 | Silver, reeded edge | R6 |
| Judd 810 | Silver, plain edge | R6 |
| Judd 811 | Copper, reeded edge | R6 |
| Judd 812 | Copper, plain edge | R6 |
| Judd 813 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R6 |
| Judd 814 | Aluminum, plain edge | R6 |

**1870** Obverse: The Barber Design; Reverse, the Regular Die.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 815 | Silver, reeded edge | R6 |
| Judd 816 | Silver, plain edge | R6 |
| Judd 817 | Copper, reeded edge | R6 |
| Judd 818 | Copper, plain edge | R6 |
| Judd 819 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R6 |
| Judd 820 | Aluminum, plain edge | R6 |

Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 821 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 822 | Copper, plain edge | R8 |
| Judd 823 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 824 | Nickel, reeded edge | R8 |

**1871** The Longacre Design. Ms. Liberty is wearing an Indian head- dress, seated on a rock, right hand holds a pole supporting a Liberty cap, left hand rests on a globe inscribed LIBERTY, two flags behind.

Reverse: 5 cents in wreath.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 1059 | Silver, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1060 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1061 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

Obverse: Same as directly above. Reverse: The Regular Die.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 1062 | Silver, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1063 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1064 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

Obverse: Same as directly above, plus 13 stars around margin Reverse: 5 cents in wreath.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 1065 | Silver, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1066 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1067 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

Obverse: Same as directly above. Reverse: The Regular Die of 1870.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 1068 | Silver, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1069 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1070 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

Half Dime Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 1071 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1072 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1073 | Nickel, reeded edge | R8 |

**1872** Regular Dies Trial Piece.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 1191 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1192 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

**1873** Regular Dies Trial Piece (Closed 3).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judd 1266 | Copper, reeded edge | R7 |
| Judd 1267 | Aluminum, reeded edge | R7 |

## Sheldon Rarity Scale Used in Judd's Book

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **R1** | Over 1,250 | **R4** | 76-200 | **R7** | High 4-6 |
| **R2** | 501-1,250 | **R5** | 31-75 | | Low 7-12 |
| **R3** | 201-500 | **R6** | High 13-20 | **R8** | 2-3 |
| | | | Low 21-30 | | Unique |

## Appendix E

# REFERENCES
# &
# LISTING OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS


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Al, who recently retired as a Human Resources Executive for a major aerospace firm, resides in Eastern Central California. He was born in Detroit, Michigan and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

STATES OF
HALF
DIME